The Middlebury Campus

Vol. 95 No. 15 | Friday, February 14, 1997 | Since 1905

Dave Barreda

Members of the college administration and the town government met Wednesday night to address local issues.

Forum seeks to resolve college-town questions

By Gwynn Guilford
News Assistant
and Mike Wiser
Staff Writer

Middlebury's first open forum between town and college officials and the community was held Wednesday in the Municipal Building's gymnasium. The meeting, which began at 7:30 p.m., was designed to facilitate communication between town residents and members of the college administration. Members of a select panel addressed citizens' questions and concerns regarding town-college relations, traffic, and the college's master plan. Although the meeting was relatively calm and the turnout was lower than expected, participants still found the event productive.

The forum's panel consisted of three members of Middlebury's administration and three college administrators, and it was moderated by Jim Douglas. Middlebury President John McCardell, Vice President David Ginevan, and Dean of Students Ann Craig Hanson represented the college at the hour-and-a-half long meeting. Town residents were represented by Town Manager Betty Wheeler, Board of Selectmen Chair Peter Lebenbaum, and Vice Chairman of the Board of Selectmen Kevin Parizo.

The meeting, attended by more than sixty residents of Middlebury, was first suggested by Lebenbaum. In his introductory comments, Lebenbaum mentioned that he became aware of the need for such a forum during the tension over the college's recently released master plan and the planned sale of Maple Manor Motel. "I'm convinced that our relationship is strong and vibrant enough that we can talk about those differences and even that the relationship will thrive as a result of it," he stressed.

McCardell emphasized the long history between college and town and the importance of a positive relationship between the two. "Middlebury College is very much an extension of this town's dreams about its future. And so from the very start, each has recognized that the other would be a diminished thing in the absence of either party," said McCardell.

The stress on harmony between the town and the college was echoed by the first question of the evening, from Jim Peden, a real estate broker and small business owner in Middlebury. Peden said that "whenever I hear a criticism of Middlebury College, I am at the

(see Forum, page 2)

Applications increase to record high

By Carri Smith
Staff Writer

Middlebury's Admissions Office received a record 4726 applications this year for the 525 places in the class of 2001. The college enjoyed a three percent increase from last year in the number of applications received. At the same time, many other institutions such as Bowdoin, Colby, Williams and Harvard experienced declines in their application pool.

Mike Schoenfeld, vice president for enrollment planning, attributes the increase to changes in the admissions office as well as to general trends in higher education. Middlebury's applicant pool has likely increased because more staff has been added to the admissions office; consequently officers have been able to visit more schools, increasing Middlebury's recognition and potentially increasing the number of applicants.

The college's decision to accept the common application also accounts for the growth in applications. According to Schoenfeld, most schools which take the common application see an increase in the number of applicants for the first two years after initial acceptance. Now in its second year, Middlebury seems to be following the pattern.

Trends in higher education are also shaping the number of applicants each year. In general, it has been a good year for the strong schools, which, according to Schoenfeld, are getting stronger applicants. Schoenfeld said that President McCardell terms this as "the flight to quality," meaning that students are becoming more and more interested in attending the best schools.

The decreasing number of applications at comparable schools to Middlebury may be due to a growing policy of selecting a larger percentage of each freshman class during the Early Decision process. Schoenfeld stated that Middlebury might have seen a decrease this year if "it weren't for what we were doing," such as taking an active role in trying to increase the applicant pool.

In a related matter, the college's student population is approaching its budgeted enrollment number.

(see Applications, page 2)

Arriving Febs placed in transformed Sig Ep house

By Marion Bright
Staff Writer

Greg Burkett '98, junior counselor in the new February first-year dormitory, Fiese (formerly Sig Ep) predicts that the upcoming semester "will go really well." The optimistic prediction could be proved wrong as students and J.C.s in the old Sig Ep stomping ground have yet to survive living in a first-year dorm during a Middlebury College semester.

All speculation aside, out of the nearly eighty students accepted to enroll this spring term, sixteen have recently moved into the dormitory, and they seem to be adjusting well to their new surroundings.

Following the recent suspension of Sig Ep, the college evicted members and decided to house first-years in the building, which is now named Fiese (a.k.a. Feb Ep) dormitory .The name Fiese, usually used during the summertime for the Language School, is that of a long-time faculty member of the Language School.

The dorm houses both female and male students on two all-male halls and a co-ed hall, thus giving the appearance of any first-year dorm. Lounges, recreation areas, and a seminar room have all been created for residents and other students alike.

The residents of Fiese have been described as a great bunch of people who are lucky to live in the dorm. So far, they have been getting along well with each other, though have shown signs of nervousness.

These feelings, normal for any first-year, are somewhat quelled by the fact that their experience is being shared as a close-living group.

Other February first-years, however, have been placed throughout the campus. Many are in other first-year dorms while some are in Gifford and Hepburn.

The February student body is regarded as a very motivated group that fills a large percent of the leadership roles on campus. Perhaps this is due to the fact that the fall before they enroll, the students assume the responsibility of doing something productive before entering the college, the promise of which helps the admissions office choose them.

Just hanging out

Anthony D'Avella

At Wednesday's activities fair, *organizations tried nearly everything to attract the attention of browsing Febs. At least forty clubs turned out for the biannual recruiting event.*

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Otter Nonsense welcomes Febs into college family p. 11

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The Campus is printed on recycled paper. It is also recyclable.

MIDD Shorts

By Josh Irwin
News Editor

Men's Rugby reinstated for next fall

Men's Rugby has received approval to return to campus as a college sports club following a suspension issued last spring. The reinstatement will be effective next September and will permit the club to play only in the fall. In a request for reinstatement, Rugby had asked the administration for permission to become a two season sport.

According to a written response from the administration, the terms of the reinstatement require that the club "go through one season of play at Middlebury with excellent standing," and during spring term in 1998 will subsequently receive consideration for "additional equipment, extra seasons and additional field space."

"I believe that you have an opportunity to really turn things around and improve and change the reputation of Middlebury College Men's Rugby," Dean of Students Ann Craig Hanson wrote to team president Konrad Schwarz '98.

Hanson, in cooperation with Vice President Don Wyatt; Athletic Director Tom Lawson; and Robert Smith, coordinator of the intramural club sport program; was responsible for deciding on the club's reinstatement.

Environmental Council pushes for parking plan

In its Campus Circulation and Parking Proposal released last month, the Environmental Council has recommended a variety of changes in the current campus parking system and proposed a free-use bicycle program with corresponding bike pathways along major pedestrian routes.

The council geared the proposal toward improving "vehicular and pedestrian safety, emergency and service access, quality of life on campus" and achieving "low environmental impact and waste reduction."

Among the 10 recommendations is a return to a system of assigned parking lots in an effort to limit "intra-campus driving." Under the council's plan, students would be assigned an individual lot close to their dorms.

Faculty and staff "who tend to keep their cars in one place all day, will have spots in lots and along streets in close proximity to their places of work."

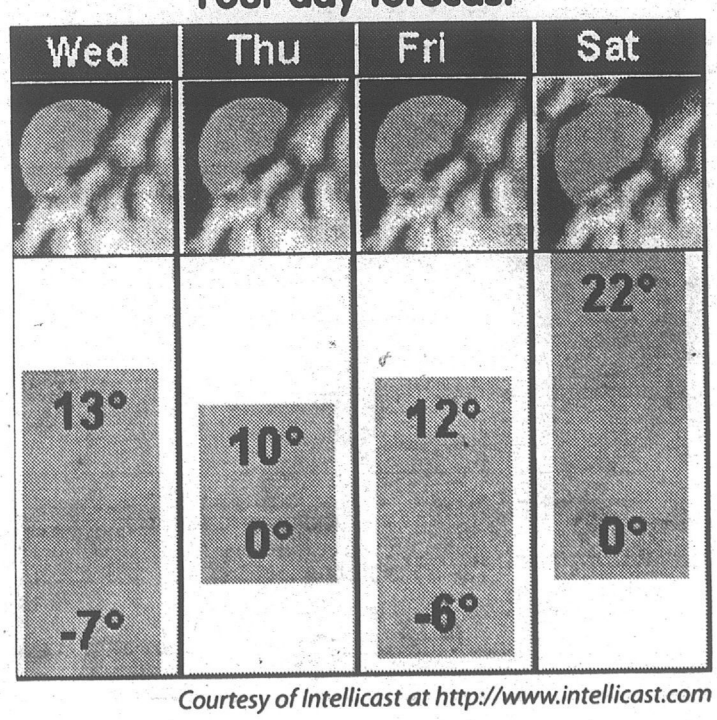
Addressing a host of safety concerns, the proposal also endorsed the college's intention to improve crosswalks and visibility along Route 125 and Route 30. It also called for entrance signs along the same two roads serving to "notify drivers that they are coming into a populated academic area," and asked for improved lighting along pedestrian routes.

Also included were suggestions that parking space along Old Chapel Road be reduced, in the hope the area would eventually become "primarily a pedestrian plaza" with service and emergency access.

After receiving the comments of faculty, staff and students in November, the council formulated its proposal confident that "the college community is ready and willing to move toward a more pedestrian-friendly environment."

Campus Weather

Four day forecast



Courtesy of Intellicast at http://www.intellicast.com

Forum seeks to resolve local questions

(continued from page 1)

same time angered and somewhat depressed... If not for Middlebury College, Middlebury would be a wide spot in the road between Rutland and Burlington." He cited the college's international reputation and other numerous contributions as enriching Middlebury both culturally and economically. Foreign art shows, performances at the Centre for the Arts, and "direct economic input" all exemplify such contributions.

The discussion repeatedly focused on the college's role in the town's future. McCardell pointed out that the college and town staff frequently work together on a number of issues.

"There is one point of view that the college is very large and very influential and there is a danger that it would have too great a role in local processes and that its weight might be too heavily felt," said college professor and town resident, John Emerson.

Furthermore, he wanted to know the participants views on "the appropriate role for the college to play as a citizen of the community and, in some ways, a big citizen in the local Middlebury community." McCardell responded, "It would be an act of supreme arrogance for the college to act as though [community] guidelines didn't exist or didn't apply to us." Wheeler expressed a different perception, saying that the relationship between the college and the town is special due to the town's role in the college's conception. Therefore, the college should be actively concerned with the local government without dictating policy and demanding exceptional treatment.

While the meeting was designed to facilitate discussion about the college, many issues discussed were not directly related to the college. Town planner Fred Dunnington answered questions relating to the use of master plans in general by property owners other than the college. The discussion also turned to questions about plans for improvements in town infrastructure. Interest in these problems centered on the possible construction of an eastern bypass around the town and a bridge to relieve traffic. One citizen pointed out that the second largest concern of Middlebury citizens was traffic problems. According to Wheeler, lack of funds at the state level is delaying development of these projects.

The opening comments set the tone for the remainder of the evening. Although the panel fielded many questions from the audience, past controversies were barely mentioned. The majority of the statements made by townspeople and those affiliated with the college lacked the argumentative tone characteristic of recent college criticism.

The audience was composed mostly of residents of Middlebury and neighboring communities. While many college faculty members attended, only a few students turned out. SGA President Karen Lewis blamed the poor student turn-out on the meeting coinciding with the first week of the spring term.

However, as Ginevan pointed out, because the meeting was televised on a cable network, the ideas expressed were exposed to a greater audience.

The Open Forum met with a positive response from both the audience and the panel members. Lebenbaum said, "I'm actually not sure what to make of it, [but] I'm glad we did it. I was surprised that there weren't more questions about the conflict... It did provide a forum for people who have been disturbed by the rift between the college and the town to express their opinion."

Those involved expressed eagerness to continue the open forum in the future, enabling town members and those affiliated with the college to voice differences. Said town resident Greg Lowenberg, "[The forum] is worth having on a regular basis." He also mentioned that he had expected more interaction between the town and college representatives on the panel.

Participants differed on their interpretation of the outcome of the evening. President McCardell was extremely optimistic, saying, "It would be very hard to say based on the size of this turn-out that there is deep-seated concern within this community about town-gown relations." Although the civility of this particular meeting seemed to allude to a relative placidity among the town residents, Wheeler pointed out that "silence is not always consent."

However, Professor Karl Lindholm bought some levity to the situation, saying, "I think we should pick sides and have a little town-gown basketball."

Applications for class of 2001 pass previous record

(continued from page 1)

This number is calculated at the beginning of every school year and is a projection of the minimum number of students that will be on campus the entire year.

Schoenfeld said that, since the number of people on campus varies from month to month, "it's pretty tricky to calculate what the enrollment number is going to be." The figure is a way to calculate the budget by projecting how many students there will be so that the college has enough money to function.

The college's decision to accept the common application also accounts for the growth in applications.

The number of students now on campus is unusually close to the budgeted enrollment number, which is almost always lower than the number of students that actually are on campus. Schoenfeld stated that this will have "no effect whatsoever on the finances of the college and no impact on the students." The only effect it may have is allowing Middlebury to admit a few more students next fall if the college has empty beds.

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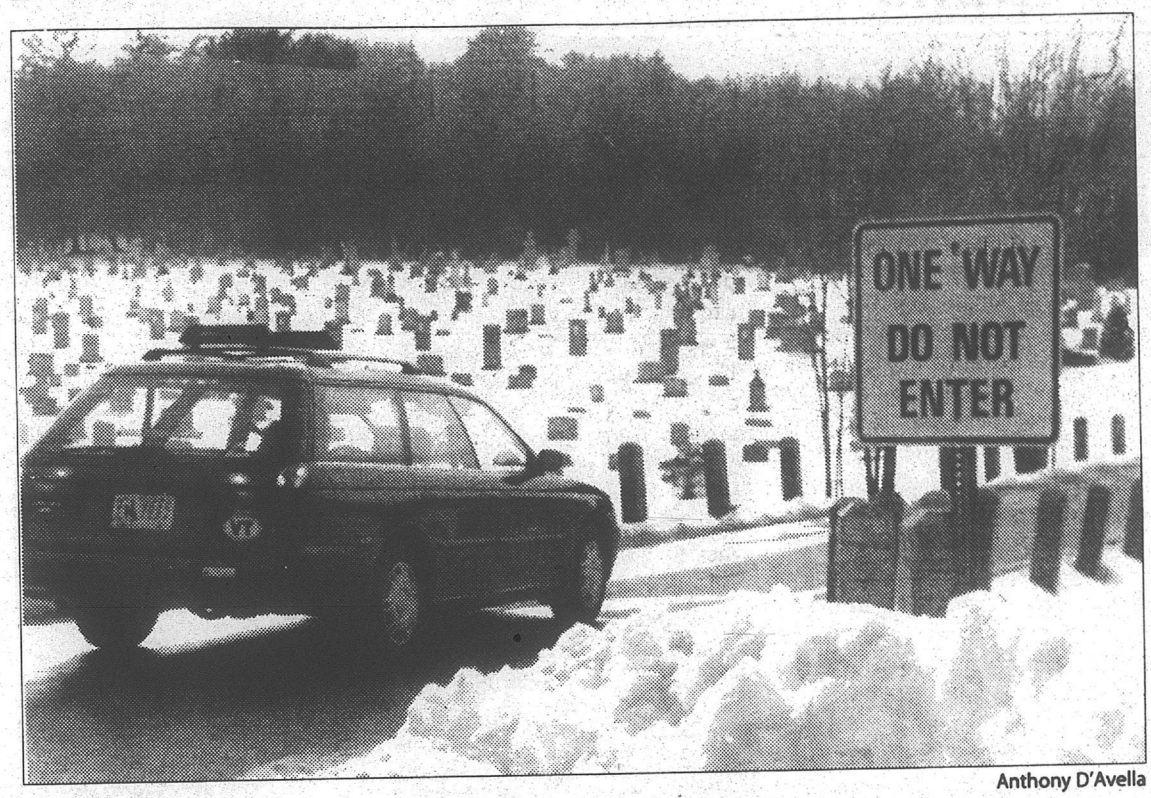

Anthony D'Avella

A student driver violates the college's one-way traffic rule, an occurrence which has safety officials worried.

Drivers using short cut prompt saftey concerns

By Aditya Raval
News Editor

The number of students who illegally drive up the one-way street on the hill behind Stewart has grown to alarming proportions. Since the beginning of the school year, six students have been ticketed for driving up the hill. However, according to Tedi Jennings, director of public safety, the low figure of ticketed drivers represents "a minimal number… and the real number [of drivers] is much higher." Jennings and others within the security department theorize that most of the drivers use the road simply as a shortcut to Proctor. Jennings believes that other students who illegally drive up the hill include those who normally park their cars in the Arts Center lot.

The road behind Stewart has seen tragedy in the past. Several years ago, Matthew Slautterback '93 was skateboarding near the hill when he was killed by a car.

Although the student was legally driving down the hill, Tom Frankovic, assistant director of public safety, asserts that the accident serves to show the inherent danger of the road behind Stewart. Since then, the road has been one-way.

Frankovic states that "sooner or later, we're going to have a big accident." Both he and Jennings describe the road as not wide enough to handle two-way traffic and theorize that a head-on collision is possible given the grade of the road and coupled with the fact that many students drive at excessive speeds in that area. Such an accident almost occurred earlier this year when a security officer's car was almost hit.

One possible effort to decrease the number of accidents involves increased lighting along the road. Jennings states that such a measure would undoubtedly help visibility but that the real solution is for students to stop driving up the hill. Also, Jennings discounts a possible solution to simply close down the road. "We can't close down [the road] because emergency vehicles need access to the area," she explained.

Besides the danger of hitting an oncoming car, Jennings and Frankovic also list walkers as a major concern, because students often view the hill as an extended sidewalk, unaware that a car could hit them from behind. Frankovic also warns of the possible liability problems associated with driving the wrong way. "[in the event of an accident], especially with some injuries, the driver would probably not receive any backing from his insurance company."

The Stewart Road problem seems just one indication that many students take the campus grounds for granted. A similar scenario exists in other campus regions: Vehicles are commonly parked on the sidewalk between Wright Theatre and Allen Dorm, while some drivers even take a shortcut onto Route 125 by coming out between Carr Hall and Forest Hall.

Feb graduates celebrate on the slopes

By Lauren Appel
Staff Writer

Family and friends of the class of '96.5 gathered at the Snowbowl on Saturday, February 1 to watch graduating seniors ski down the mountain in full cap and gown. Many first-time viewers remarked that the procession was one of the more incredible sights they had ever seen. "I've seen pictures of it," said one, "but I can't believe this actually happens."

After receiving the traditional Gamaliel Painter canes at an earlier indoor ceremony, graduating Febs raced to change out of their dress shoes and into ski boots. They had instructions to be on the lifts at the Snowbowl no later than 1:30 p.m., but stragglers ran toward the lines until nearly 2 p.m. A crowd of a few hundred people waited at the bottom of the hill and shouted encouragement to those on their way up the mountain.

Although all members of the graduating class wore caps and gowns, many individuals got creative with what they wore under or on top of the traditional garb. One graduate went up the hill wearing shorts, while others came in full snow gear. Coert Voorhees and Scott Morgan both wore missmatched ski boots and hats and goggles under their caps.

Others, who took a more formal route, remained in their dress clothes and carried the canes that they had recently received. "It looks just like the pictures in the catalogue," one parent remarked.

The occasion began when a line of graduates crested the hill and started down a slalom course set up on the Snowbowl's main trail. First in line was a Feb carrying a college sign. A long line of seniors followed, inching their way down the mountain toward the waiting crowd. Although most members of the graduating class came down on skis or snowboards, there were a few who used less conventional methods of travel. Erik Anderson, for instance, rode down the mountain on a sit-sled, while three of his classmates donned snowshoes for the occasion.

Graduating members of the ski patrol brought a Feb with an injured back down the hill on an evacuation sled so that she wouldn't miss the ceremony. A few individuals even managed to come down on their rear ends, much to the delight of the crowd below.

Once the entire class had reached the bottom of the hill, the graduates gathered to be photographed by family and the college. Snowballs immediately began to fly between the crowd and members of the graduating class.

Dave Curry '96 remarked that "Any graduation where you can pelt the graduates with snowballs while they're getting their picture taken is pretty cool … I wish I was a Feb."

Many members of other Feb classes attended the ceremony in anticipation of their own day on the hill. Justin Elicker '97.5 said, "I saw spring graduation last year and seeing this ceremony made me really excited to be a Feb… there was such a festive spirit, it wasn't as formal as the spring ceremony. That's how I want my graduation to be."

David Wolman '96.5 seemed to sum up the sentiments of most of his fellow classmates when he said, "It's an incredible experience, the perfect way to end four years at Middlebury."

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College presents extensive blueprint for growth in next decade

By Julia Topalian
Staff Writer

The blueprint for the physical development and expansion of the college within the next ten years is now available for the community at large to examine in the Draft Facilities Plan. It can be read either on the Web (www.middlebury.edu/~admaff/acadplan/TOC.html) or on reserve at Starr Library. As its title suggests, this is only a draft of what will be submitted to the Board of Trustees in May. The Draft Facilities Plan is now being circulated so that discussion can begin and input obtained from students, faculty, staff, alumni and neighbors of the college. This input will help to form the final facilities plan.

This plan was created on a set of assumptions made by the college which can be separated into four divisions. The "Fundamental Assumptions" concern the programs, physical plant, construction and renovation, the Master Plan, and an assurance of environmental awareness which the college maintains.

The assumptions stress a commitment to excellence in academics, while also emphasizing the many changes which the college is about to undergo. According to these assumptions, neither academics nor the physical changes will be compromised.

The "Operational Assumptions" concern the way that the physical plant is run, including the growth of the undergraduate body, an expansion of summer programs, the important role of facilities in a residential college and liberal arts environment, provision of different housing and social opportunities, construction of a central dining facility, and a larger role played by the Bread Loaf campus.

The "Financial Assumptions" deal with the funding and finances of the growth of the college. It is estimated that within the next ten years, $150 million dollars will be spent on construction and renovation. Finally, the "Construction Assumptions" address construction and renovation aesthetics, costs, flexibility, accessibility, and the high standard which the college desires to maintain.

The Operational Assumptions include four important points of discussion. The first is a new centralized dining facility. This proposed space would allow for a more relaxed, socially conducive meal time by having multiple rooms rather than one large space. This would allow classes, clubs, and other groups to eat together more easily as well as accommodating the summer language program.

The assumptions stress a commitment to excellence in academics, while also emphasizing the many changes which the college is about to undergo. According to these assumptions, neither academics nor the physical changes will be compromised.

The second point of note within the drafted plan is the conversion of Proctor into the student activities center. This would provide a more centralized meeting place on campus and provide more interaction between students with dining and activities together. The renovated Proctor Hall will have expanded social spaces, room for student organizations, the mailroom, a game-room, a pub, and a larger bookstore. In order to make room for this and other renovations in the Proctor Road area, Hillcrest will be demolished.

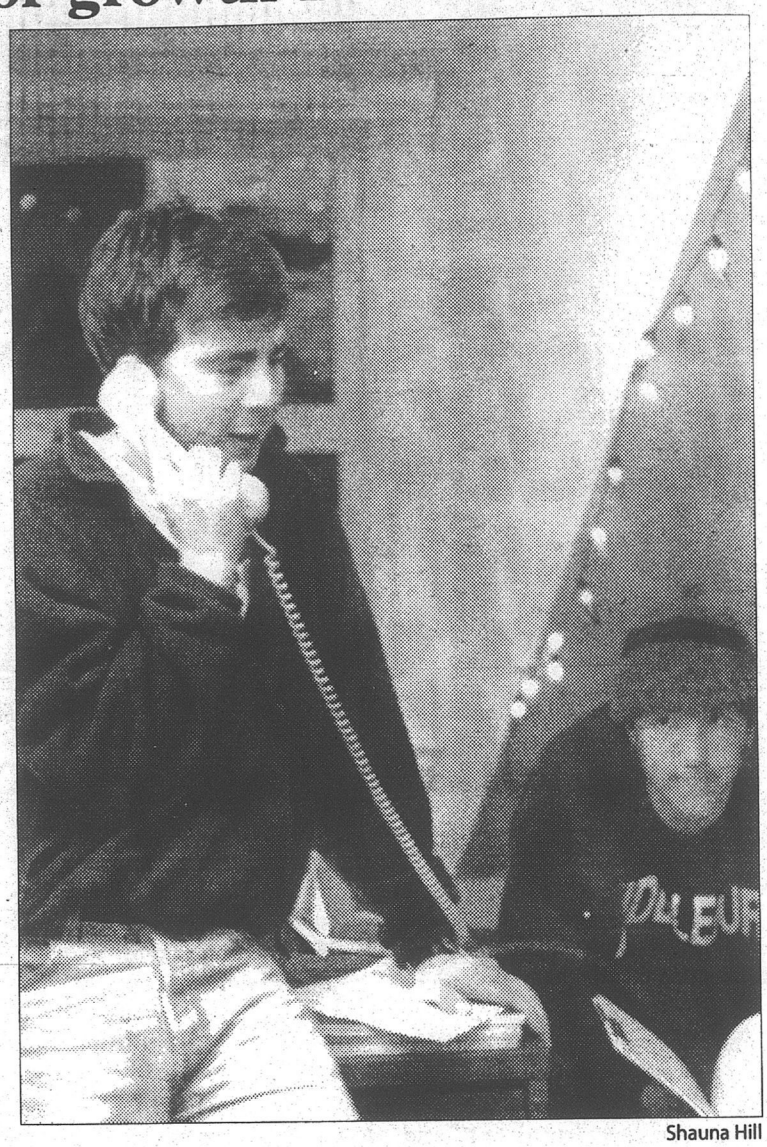
Another point of discussion is the elimination of first-year dormitories. With the renovations of Battell, Allen and Stewart, the dorms will become multiclass. First-year students will be kept in halls or wings, but the dorms will be integrated. Because the majority of rooms will be converted to singles from doubles, there will be a severe loss in bed space. Thus, more housing will have to be built, and/or more students will be allowed to live off campus.

The purpose of the campus discussions is, as Vice President Ron Leibowitz said, "to get feedback, opinions and criticisms of this facilities plan."

There have been three open meetings for the college community to attend, the last being on February 5. Discussion is being done in this fashion because of the amount of planning and the time restrictions which are placed around these proposals.

At the open meetings, a number of issues with the facilities plan had been brought up. People have critiqued the plan for not including renovations to the Health Center, not mentioning the spiritual needs of students, and not suggesting a better way to integrate the career planning offices with more student activities. Students also discussed prioritization and need for a new environmental center, as well as an updated kitchen for Weybridge house.

A discussion of library renovations was raised: Some question whether it would be better to remain in the library for renovations for approximately three years, or whether it would be more wise to wait until the Science Center has been vacated and move into that space so that renovations will take only about two years.



Shauna Hill

John Nesbitt '00.5 and Chris McKinlay '00.5 adjust to life in Fiese.

The Draft Facilities Plan has been created in order to continue Middlebury's expansion and high standards in all areas of campus life. Academic needs are addressed by the addition of many new classrooms and faculty offices, a new technology center and construction of Bicentennial Hall, as well as library renovation.

Residential needs take into account the growing student body and include the renovations of many existing dorms and the construction of eight new dorms, as well as a variety of options for senior housing, and the new centralized dining facility. Athletic needs include a new hockey rink, a new indoor track, and the addition of new playing fields. Student activity needs are answered by a new mailroom and college store, addition of a convenience store, pub, student organizational space, game room, lounges, and appropriate space for catered alcohol events.

Facilities management needs are dealt with by the construction of new roads, parking lots, and a recycling/composting station, as well as a renovated steam delivery plant, heating plant and a new electric system.

Campus Security Log

The Department of Public Safety responded to the following incident reports.

01/31/97	Responded to a report of marijuana use in Kelly.
02/01/97	Responded to a fire at the Mill.
02/02/97	Responded to a party violation at the Zoo.
02/02/97	Confiscated an illegal keg from Sig-Ep.
02/03/97	Received a report of a stolen carpet sweeper from FIC.
02/05/97	Received a report of a hit and run accident in the FIC parking lot.
02/05/97	Received a theft report from Proctor.
02/06/97	Confiscated a marijuana bong from the hall in Forest.

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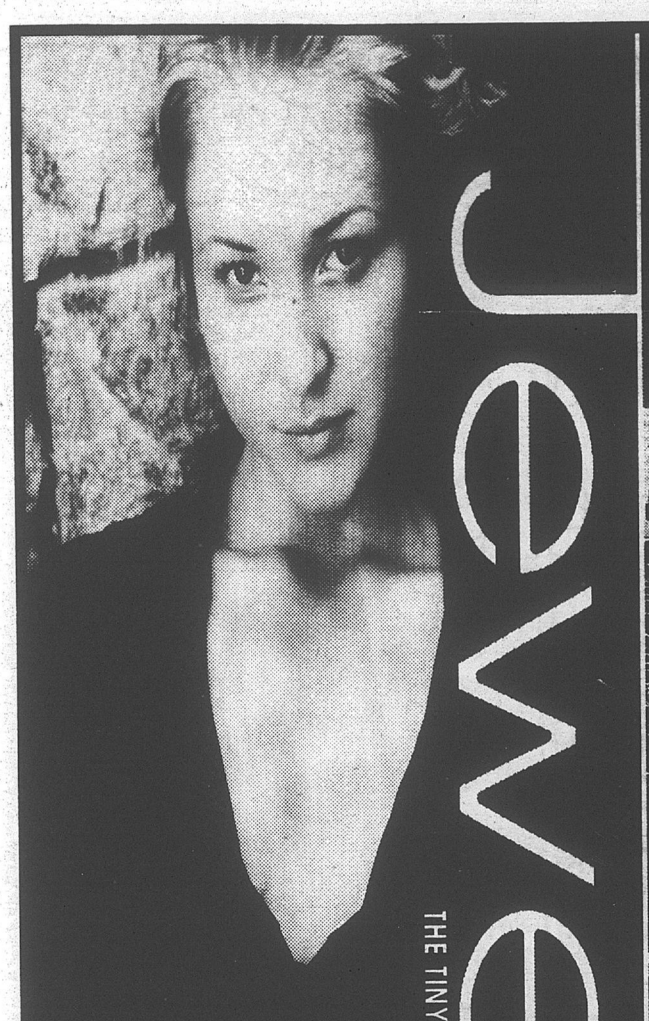

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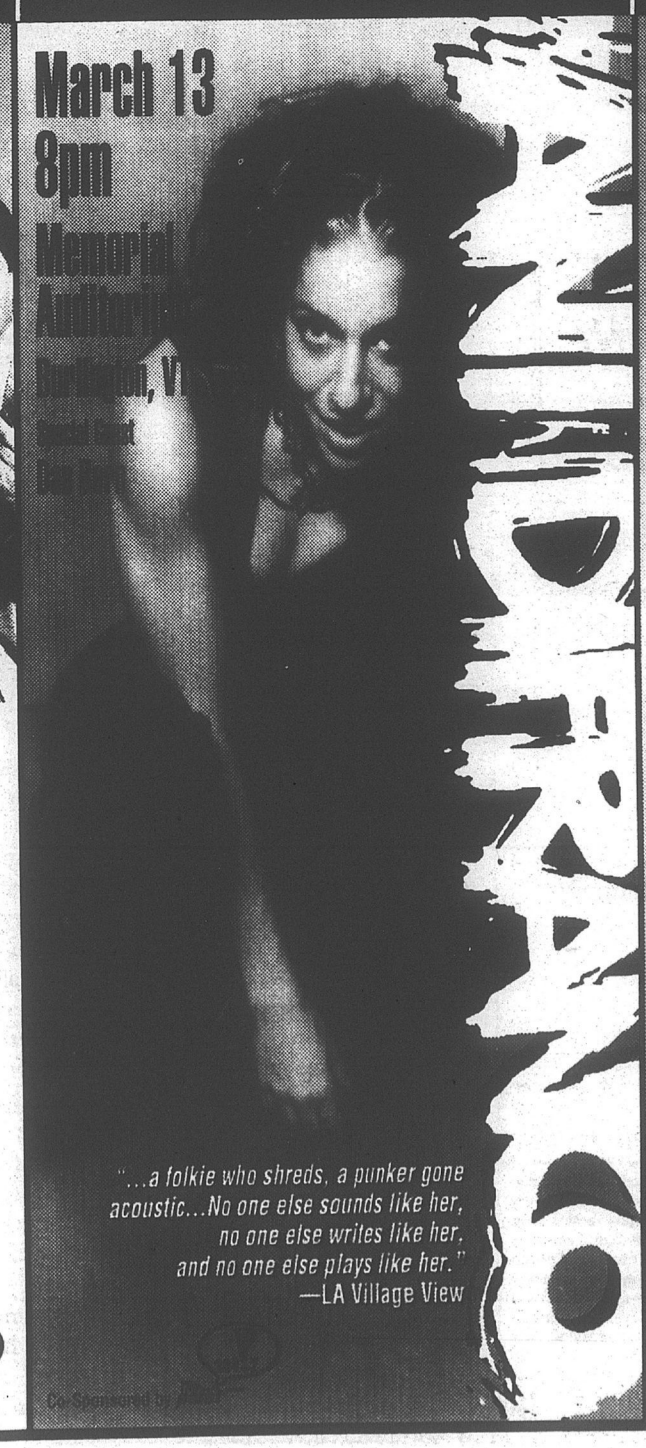

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Editorial

A comprehensible fee

This weekend, the trustees will meet to discuss the price tag of a Middlebury education, a combination of students' tuition and room and board fees — otherwise known as the Comprehensive Fee.

In the past two years, this price has gone up by approximately 4-5%. No one really knows, with any specificity, what factors the trustees consider in their evaluative process; after they finish meeting, the Comprehensive Fee is set, and that's all there is to it. Fortunately, though, a committee of student representatives does exist to communicate student financial concerns and priorities to the trustees. Made up of six volunteers representing three classes, the Comprehensive Fee Committee labors long and hard to evaluate the college's financial data in terms of keeping the inevitable annual increase as small as possible while maintaining — even improving — student life on campus. At the end of their deliberations, they report their findings to the trustees in the form of a budget proposal, complete with the Comp. Fee they feel is appropriate for the coming year.

This year's Comp. Fee Committee proposal allocates money to all kinds of persistently underfunded projects, including some as major as the McCullough walkway, and a few as minor as juice at dinner. It also provides for the continuation of Middlebury's need-blind admissions policy, maintains endowment spending below the trustee-mandated level of 5%, and plans for the college's impending student body increase to 2,300 students by the year 2000. Most importantly, it lowers the rate of tuition increase to 2.6% (instead of the 4.9% and 4.5% recommended in recent years).

Everyone knows that schools like Middlebury are expensive. And we know, also, that the Comprehensive Fee is the price we pay for an excellent education. Not everyone agrees on exactly what is meant by this — different groups hold different priorities in defining "necessary" expenditures. But isn't it reassuring, on some level, that a student group like the Comp. Fee Committee exists? These students examine the same data used by the trustees, and frequently reach similar conclusions about what the annual increase should be. Whether this is a credit to the students' accuracy in predicting what the trustees will say, or whether the trustees really rely upon the students' input, is unknown. We can only hope for the latter — especially with this year's reasonable (and relatively affordable) proposal.

The Middlebury Campus

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HI-
ARE YOU FROM OUT OF STATE?
YEAH, BUT-
PASSPORT?
NOT ON ME...
WHERE WERE YOU ON THE NIGHT OF APRIL 24TH?
HUNH? ASLEEP, I GUESS...
WHAT'S THE HIGHEST UNDERWATER VERTICAL RELIEF?
UM...
WHAT'S THE WORLD'S SMALLEST LAND MAMMAL?
UH...
A... A THAI BUMBLEBEE BAT?
ALRIGHT. JUST MAKING SURE.
JEEZ, IT'S JUST NOT FUN BUYING ANYMORE.

EC requests student involvement

Jennifer Hazen '95

You have been given a rare opportunity to take part in the planning of what Middlebury will look like in ten years. The administration recognizes that you, the people who live, work, and learn here, have valuable insights. Yet, compared to the number of people here that I know have something to say, there has been relatively little comment on plans that will affect us all. If you don't step forward and participate now, you may forever hold your peace.

The final decisions on what, when, and how will be made by President McCardell and the Trustees. This is somewhat arbitrary, but it is irresponsible to expect them to make these decisions without our input. They cannot feel the pulse of Middlebury College if you don't speak up.

I have an agenda. I want to stimulate input, discussion, and broad based support for a new Environmental Center. It is not a new vision, but one whose time has finally come. The Middlebury College experience will be enlightened by the addition of a new multi-disciplinary Environmental Center, focused on living and learning.

Such a Center will facilitate Middlebury College's desire to be a leader in environmental studies. We have a responsibility to teach

(see Environmental, page 8)

Marks took superficial look at issue

Ethan Marcotte '99

Let me state at the outset that I believe this response to be a futile one; if I believed in something with the same fervent tenacity that Shawn Marks seems to possess, I would be sorely pressed to change my beliefs after simply reading a classmate's response in the college newspaper. Having said this, I may have adversely affected my chances of writing an effective response to Mr. Marks' opinion. But I hope that I am wrong.

First of all, I would be the last person to deny that there are injustices occurring each day. Yes, even racism is very much alive in certain unfortunate regions of the world, and every effort should be taken to extinguish this evil philosophy. But the so-called proponents of open-mindedness and equality should ever be conscious of their objective and its inherent dangers. When denouncing racism, one must always be aware that the old adage about fighting fire with fire can not and should not apply here. Combating generalizations with further generalizations breeds hate, drowning any possibility for reconciliation in a militant wash of anger.

For example, Mr. Marks' broad literary strokes paint an unfriendly world indeed. According to his article, most students "will gravitate to their own ethnic group," as "Asians… stay by themselves" and gay men and lesbians form cliques." Most prominent in the writer's mind seem to be the "rich White frat brats" that have a "monopoly on everything." They apparently use this gainsay to prevent "Black contamination" at Middlebury College. But with these statements, the reader is alienated not only from the starkness of Mr. Marks' portrait but from the writer's very argument. As de Tocqueville said, "General ideas have this excellent quality, that they permit human minds to pass judgment quickly on a great number of things; but the conceptions they convey are always incomplete, and what is gained in extent is always lost in exactitude."

And exactitude is suffering in other parts of the article, as Mr. Marks' perspective becomes progressively more bipolar. He opens with the mention of minorities that are far removed from dance clubs, a reference that despite its inaccuracies is all-encompassing. But as the article progresses, he eventually filters out the allusions to other minorities in order to describe a heated conflict between "Blacks" and "Whites." He attempts to interpret a vague piece of hearsay about a CP&P workshop, saying that "[the white students] probably felt uneasy around the Black students." Later, he attempts to explain the unfortunately low number of black students, saying that the "administration probably does not want to scare away affluent Whites and 'refined' Blacks." Where do the motives lie? Does Mr. Marks attempt to defend minorities, or is he expounding upon the conflict between his "Blacks" and "Whites"?

Essentially, the article leads the reader to the conclusion that Mr. Marks' perception of the world is dangerously askew. As I said, racism does occur in parts of this world; growing up in northern Vermont with two adopted sisters of African-American descent showed me this on a few occasions.

But what must not be forgotten is that much progress has been made on this front since Martin Luther King, Jr.'s volatile lifetime, both in American society as a whole and here at Middlebury. Shawn, as a fellow member of the Middlebury community, I would ask you to reexamine your position and philosophy. Perhaps they will not have changed after careful self-scrutiny, but I would urge you to try. Because when one loses the ability to question one's motives or beliefs, one loses one's self as well.

Areshidze questions strength of nation

Last week, during the disrupted State of the Union Address, President Bill Clinton declared that "the State of our Union is strong." I would like to take a second look at

Irakly Areshidze '00

that because the State of the Union is in reality very weak. It is not only so because of the economic problems facing the country or the fact that a corrupt and possibly criminal man lives in the White House. Rather, it has to do with the character of the American populous and the political state of this greatest experiment in the history of mankind.

Last week CNN, *USA Today* and the Gallup organization published a poll which found that 62% of the American population approves of President Clinton and of the way he is handling his job. Yet at the same time, 67% of the population thinks that the next generation will be worse off then the present generation.

This is a sharp, almost 30% increase from 1986, when in the midst of an economic downturn 39% of the population thought that.

Think about this for a moment. If almost two-thirds of the public believes that President Clinton is leading the country in the right direction (assuming that the job of the President of the United States is to lead the nation somewhere) then how can the same public believe that future is bleak? I know that there is no consensus on the answer to this question. I would like to offer you my assessment.

One aspect of the problem lies in the fact that Americans have lowered the results that they expect from this leader to the level that they no longer care if he is doing something for their country. After four years of waffling, lying, and wrongdoing as well as demagoguery, the people only care for President Clinton to have a stand and to believe in something real. In other words, they just want some kind of leadership. At this time the President seems to be showing leadership and people like that. This is just a small part of the problem, though.

The larger explanation is complex and I think that we can find an easier way of explaining it if one takes a look at what happened during the State of the Union Address last Tuesday. Specifically, the President of the United States, the most powerful man in the world, was scheduled to go up to Capital Hill and deliver a customary speech in front of the joint session of Congress and so fulfill a constitutional obligation.

Following the President's address, Rep. J.C. Watts (OK) was to give a response of the Republican congressional Majority. It so happened that the jury in the OJ Simpson Civil Trial reached a verdict just hours before these two most important political speeches of the year. What happened next is a very sad commentary the State of this Union.

For almost three years much of the American populous has been obsessed with the "Trial of the Century". First it was the chase and the trial preparation time, then it was the Criminal Trial, now the Civil Trial.

Why does such a large percentage of the population in the most powerful nation in the world need to know all this stuff about some idiot. True, he killed two people. But there are several murders in NYC everyday, and no one cares. What is going on?

(See Areshidze, page 9)

Libby justifies legalization of drugs

Well, another election has come and gone and we recently inaugurated another incumbent politician. The status quo was maintained. The partisan bickering continues and scandals seem to have reached the point where we expect them. The term "gate" is prefixed by so many words one would think that we were opening

And another thing...

by Sean Libby '97

doorways to all sorts of bold new worlds. Instead, we are closing ourselves in, time and again. We accept sex scandals and illegal financial activities as part of the daily operation of our nation's capitol.

The scandals seem to serve primarily as excuses for one side to espouse its own views while claiming to have fewer scandals (or less important ones) charged against it. In the midst of all this, one party remained untouched. The Libertarian party didn't even accept money that it had every right to from the federal government — let alone from an Asian businessman. Forget affirmative action: it ran a woman as its vice-presidential candidate. While other parties talk about change, the Libertarians practice what they preach. Today I would like to take a look at one portion of what it is that they preach: drugs.

During prohibition this country was torn apart by gangsters who used their brute force to take advantage of the illegal trade in alcohol. The illegal activities of that period bear a striking resemblance to today's drug wars. Due to the illegality of drugs those who are willing to engage in the most brutal and heinous crimes have profited by their distribution. Since drugs are illegal, only criminals can distribute them. Since there is no regulation, it is simply a matter of might making right.

If a dealer wishes to maintain his territory he does so by force. Innocent people are caught up in the destruction, neighborhoods are torn apart and children are killed in drive-bys gone wrong. This situation has come about as the result of the government choosing to ignore the problem. The easiest route the legislators can take is the moral high road, which simply says that drugs are bad, leaving the virtually impossible enforcement of this stance to the people who work for a living.

The easiest thing in the world is to point to the crack-heads or, even worse, to the crack-babies and say, "Look at the destructiveness of these substances." That's true. We all admit that drugs kill people, tear apart families, all of that. However, before we write off the possibility of legalizing drugs let's consider the other side.

The war on drugs has failed. "Just Say No" epitomized the simplistic moralizing that is beyond laughable. Law enforcement has similarly proved a disappointment. America will not support a law that a significant portion of the population does not believe in.

With everyone from Bill Clinton to Newt Gingrich admitting to using drugs at one point, it is obvious that a substantial portion of the American public simply refuses to accept the illegal status of

(see Libby, page 8)

State responsible for quality education

As if enough attention to legal issues hadn't already been generated by OJ's financial demise, the unanimous decision by the Vermont Supreme Court last week set

Dan Bryan '98

off a comparable, albeit more dignified, ruckus throughout Vermont. In a sweeping verdict, the justices found the current system of funding public education illegal, and ordered the legislature to find a better alternative.

That means levying local property taxes, the method formerly relied on to raise the bulk of funds, must be scrapped in favor of a system spreading the tax burden more evenly throughout the state. It means also that property-poor towns won't be sending their children to under-funded and cramped schools while neighboring districts spend twice as much

Students must be afforded equal access to all that our educational system has to offer.

money per student. Towns like Sherburne, home to Killington and Pico which pump both tourist and tax money into the local coffers and leave residents with very little property tax burden, won't be spending all that money on their own schools. Instead, a significant amount will likely go to poorer districts. Understandably, many Vermonters welcomed the verdict for the financial relief it promised. But what's more important here is education. And the court's language makes that abundantly and encouragingly clear.

"To keep a democracy competitive and thriving," The Burlington Free Press excerpted from the ruling, "students must be afforded equal access to all that our educational system has to offer. In the funding of what our Constitution places at the core of a successful democracy, the children of Vermont are entitled to a reasonable share." Clearly aware of the magnitude of their decision, the justices even evoked Brown vs. Board of Education. "Education is perhaps the most important function of state and local governments," the U.S. Supreme Court had ruled in 1954. "In these days, it is doubtful that any child may be reasonably expected to succeed in life if he is denied the opportunity of an education."

Certainly it's true that the link between increased spending and improved academic performance is not indisputable. Undeniably, things like parent involvement, dedicated teachers and community volunteers play a crucial role in the education of children. Examples of fund-hungry school districts producing impressive test scores or wildly successful programs do exist. But by and large kids can't concentrate in overcrowded, poorly ventilated classrooms, can't gain vital computer literacy on only a handful of machines, can't receive the benefits of co-curricular academic and sports programs if such opportunities are constantly sliced from the budget.

Worse still, the annual battle over the school budgets inevitably results in tension between the taxpayer and the school — from which neither students nor teachers nor families escape unharmed. In leveling out the spending on schools, the court eliminates a major portion of these concerns for the majority of districts and taxpayers. President Clinton recently has made some significant promises about American education. The political usefulness of these pledges is not, and perhaps never will be, separate from their actual impact on actual kids in actual public schools.

The same is true for lawmakers — Congress occasionally bats around the idea of a constitutional amendment like the one against flag-burning mostly to please its various constituencies.

But while the recent court verdict involves both education and the Constitution it does so nobly and realistically without mucking around in politics. It's about time kids and education received the genuine attention and the protection the socially-conscious court has extended.

Clinton's education policy is feeble

"The enemy of our time is inaction." It goes almost without saying that Clinton was correct in this declaration in last week's State of the Union Address. I suppose that is why last fall I chose "The Active Voice" as the name for this column.

Unfortunately, in looking closely at the 10 points in Clinton's "Call to Action for American Educa-

The *Active* Voice

by Heather Thompson '97

tion," outlined later in the Address, it also almost goes without saying that the enemy of Clinton's term will be inaction. Fighting the forces of stagnation in this country's public schools — teachers' unions and those who would rather escape the public school system though private school vouchers — will take more than national standards, a few billion "targeted" dollars, and a bully pulpit.

Although it may sound cliché, Clinton's heart is in the right place when he declares that his "number one priority for the next four years is to ensure that all Americans have the best education in the world." If all Americans had their priority in the same place and remembered it as they wrote out their tax checks or volunteered to chaperone a field trip or to speak in a classroom, our public schools would be better than we can dream of. It is easy to say that education is our top priority. Acting on that statement will be more difficult.

Clinton's first proposal was a "crusade for education standards." By this he means, national — "not federal government" — standards mandating the knowledge necessary for all American children. Ultimately, what he really means are new national standardized tests for students in 4th and 8th grade. The renewed interest in these tests by the government and other non-educators is remarkable considering the current trends in higher education away from focusing on SAT scores and GPA's for admissions standards.

Educators have begun to learn that multiple choice tests do not meaningfully assess students' capabilities or achievement. And at the same moment, Governor Dean and President Clinton are both crying out for more standardized, computer-scored, bubble-sheet tests.

The real problem with this "action" plan is that it requires very little action. A few days will have to be reserved for the testing — days when regular classes will be preempted; a little extra time may have to be spent on remedial work for those who do very poorly on the exam.

Certainly that remedial work is important, but it doesn't really change education for the majority of America's children. The majority of America's fourth graders would probably do passably well on this exam right now. Standards

Standards won't really change the face of the curriculum in any radical or meaningful way.

won't really change the face of the curriculum in any radical or meaningful way. Standards won't raise our expectations of our children to excel.

They are, by definition, a median — an average — below which we should not fall. But no nation ever became great by aspiring to an average. Clinton aptly said that we should "aim high and challenge our students." National standards simply will not push us in this direction.

Clinton's second proposal was just as problematic. He called for America to have the best teachers, and promised to fund nationally accepted credentials for excellence in teaching. This proposal was

(see Clinton's, page 9)

Lewis questions veracity of Shawn Marks' statements

I thank Shawn Marks for opening a discussion on race relations at Middlebury College. Race is an issue that seems to get shoved away and mostly forgotten. It inevitably

Hannah Lewis '97

resurfaces, though, and we realize that our culture still hasn't healed from several centuries of racist law and racist social attitudes. I speak from the particular point of view of a white Middlebury student, but I will make the assumption that most people — black, white, or brown — prefer to live their lives without thinking about racism or sexism in the hope that they will not be confronted with either burden. That is a sensible way to live, but it gets interrupted — seldom for some people, more frequently for others.

I respect Marks' article for bringing up for criticism the subject of racism. Here is my criticism: Why do we segregate ourselves by race here? Why doesn't Middlebury celebrate Martin Luther King's birthday? "Is King's birthday a Black holiday or an American holiday?" Why do we stress ourselves out with the question of whether quotas rather than merit determine the acceptance of minorities to Middlebury College? Why not balance that fear with the fear that socio-economic privilege influences the acceptance rate of white kids? Why should anybody be attacked by the rampant neurotic idea that there exists a conception that too many black students would "contaminate" the academic institution?

Why is this culture obsessed with scapegoating groups of people? Why is it so hard for us to see the continuity between people which makes ethnicity irrelevant? The human emotions we all share follow formulas which generate predictable emotional responses to given life circumstances. When you're treated with respect, you feel more confident, responsible for yourself, and interested in respecting the world around you. When you are disrespected you feel angry and reckless. When you witness death or destruction you lose hope and enthusiasm. When you see good things grow and be healthy, you feel energized and optimistic. When you are sheltered from life outside your sheltered neighborhood, you are wary of different cultures. When power has been bestowed on you, you feel a temptation to exploit it. Whether any of these emotional responses is justifiable is not the point at the moment. The point is that they are human, and each of us can identify with them.

It's simple and it's universal. If you don't know how to treat someone because you are unfamiliar with their culture, you can always fall back on the golden rule — I suggest you make that the rule. As Marks says, treat people for who they are: human beings. In that case, we really don't need to know minority issues or feminist issues or white or male issue in order to relate to any person on an individual level.

To be a thoughtful, informed, and reasonable citizen, on the other hand, it is important to understand minority and feminist issues. Its like micro vs. macro theory on getting along with people. At a micro level, use the golden rule - know that people are people. At the macro level, a person has to understand that racism exists and thrives, and impacts different social and ethnic groups of people in various ways. A person has to be both critical and sensitive to other groups whose lives s/he has no first-hand experience living.

I challenge Marks' assumptions about blacks and whites. It is unfair to assume that when a person of color makes a decision to be friends with white people it is because that person is after power and privilege. Can't people who happen to be different colors just like each other? Or maybe that person's cultural identity matches that of the racial majority, and so despite their race they feel more comfortable with the white majority. It is also somewhat unreasonable to assume that whites have the power to heal racism and to put an end to voluntary racial segregation at Middlebury. I agree with Marks' perception that white Middlebury students generally act ignorant, sheltered, consumed in their own private worlds, and disinterested in sharing or understanding the experiences of minority groups. My response is that white people are people too. Since they are not impacted as seriously as minority races are by racism in their daily lives, they think much less about it. They are powerful enough to maintain their position of power in a socio-economic system which privileges them, but they are not powerful enough to know how to restructure the system, should they observe that it is wrong. I think most of my white friends believe they are not racist, and I think they are probably right to the extent that they support equal rights for everybody, and believe that everybody is created equal. I think they/we are racist in that we are overly conscious of race and apprehensive about relating with people who are culturally different. That's a product of America's obsession with race, but it is not an excuse to ignore the problem and not try to think deeply about it.

The goal is to finally make race not an issue while still preserving the distinct cultural characteristics of various groups. I hope that this discussion continues at Middlebury. I know that there's more for me to understand and that I have used generalizations and assumptions to keep this article short. Racial issues will keep jumping out of the woodwork and disturbing us, just as feminist issues will, until we as an entire nation and world can counsel ourselves out of the paranoid xenophobia surrounding the issue of race.

That won't happen until, at the micro level, everyone understands that everyone they meet is another human being with roughly the same emotional response mechanisms, even if they look or act different. Human emotions are more predictable than they are enigmatic if you understand the circumstances from which they were derived.

Libby justifies legalization of drugs

(continued from page 7)

drugs. Short of the institution of a police state this is not a situation that will change. So we are stuck with a violent, destructive system where the victim is frequently the innocent bystander.

If drugs were to be legalized much of this would change. First of all the legal status would virtually destroy the lucrative gang involvement. Without the artificially-increased demand for drugs the economic side of the issue would stabilize. Money could be diverted from drug-prevention programs to treatment programs where it could actually do good. Taxes on drugs would allow for even more money to aid in this effort. An age requirement for the purchasing of drugs could be instituted.

With the money drawn in from the now legitimate sale of these substances we could impose age restrictions in an effective and comprehensive manner. In many cases it's easier for a high school student to get pot than alcohol or cigarettes. Perhaps most important of all the victims of drugs would at least have chosen to engage in self-destructive behavior. As cold as it may sound, I value the life of the innocent six-year-old girl killed in a drive-by more than that of an adult who chooses to smoke crack. To pretend that this is a meaningless distinction is wrong.

Simply put, we will never win the war on drugs. Instead we must focus on minimizing the effects on the innocent in society. Would there still be children born to addicted parents? Yes, there would. It's a horrible prospect. However, to pretend that these children will go away simply by washing our hands of the matter and saying, "Hey, we made the drugs illegal. It's not our fault" is wrong. We must take a realistic stance and become pro-active on the side of treatment and education.

This country realized that Prohibition was a failed effort. Mickey Mantle still died of liver disease from drinking, driving under the influence still occurs, and underage drinking leads to lifelong addiction. However, all that was balanced against the gang wars, the failure of the government to really prohibit anything and the hypocrisy of virtually every major government official admitting to drinking during Prohibition. The country moved beyond ignorant moralizing and into a responsible approach. That step was easier than the one I know ask the country to make. Then it was alcohol. It was something that was accepted. Even alcoholism was smiled at as the town drunk was portrayed as a lovable lout.

The town stoner is more likely than not a young person with a different attitude than the status quo. It's a little more scary. It preys a little more on the inherent guilt of our Judeo-Christian background. It is different. However, it is also time. And Another Thing…

Environmental Planning

(continued from page 6)

citizenship as well as english and sciences. At least seventy-five percent of my learning at this College took place outside of and beyond my courses.

Facilities and programs that enable and support such experiential learning are essential for Middlebury College to be a liberal arts college of choice.

The group working on this project agrees with me. But, like President McCardell, we cannot know what you think unless you tell us. If you think that this is a good idea, let us know. If you are opposed, tell us why. If you have questions, by all means ask them.

We need your input, whether you are a student, professor, employee, alumnus, parent, town resident, or anyone else. Please submit comments to: Jen Hazen, Environmental Coordinator, Service Building.

We will host an informal discussion on Wednesday, February 19 at 7 p.m. in Weybridge House. If you are even mildly interested, please come to express your opinion or to listen. This meeting is a chance for everyone to bounce ideas off of each other, discuss, critique, and mobilize. We are not speaking to the official decision-makers, but to our peers.

If you are interested in helping come up with an effective proposal, please sign up to attend our brainstorming session. This "charrette" is scheduled for Saturday, March 1, from 4 to 9 p.m. Several local environmental consultants, landscape planners, engineers, and architects will join us in the discussion.

We will give you dinner and the chance to win prizes donated by local businesses. It is free, but we need to know who is coming in order to send you materials and provide enough food. Stop by the EQ board in the mailroom or give me a call at ext. 5043 and register.

The opportunities are out there for you. If you neglect this chance for open discussion and input you will have only yourself to blame. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lee pleads for Otter Creek Journal

Walk in Balance

by Alexander Lee '97

A preponderance of the evidence indicates that the SGA is not an advocate for the students. It is instead a make-work program for future bureaucrats and financiers. This must change. I should direct my attack more specifically at the Finance Committee, which decided to shut down the Otter Creek Journal three days before break. It was not a unanimous decision, but unanimity was not required. It was not on the same night as the State of the Union, but the timing was pretty poor. By a vote of five to one, the committee voted to suspend the publication for the Vernal Equinox edition. Because the Winter Solstice editor did not follow the proper channels for obtaining already appropriated money, the whole campus will miss the Spring edition if this decision is not appealed.

While I recognize the need to work within an established system, I applaud this student's decision to proceed with publishing the journal outside of the corrupt system. Sometimes I have wished that I was so daring. Maybe his civil disobedience, which was more negligent than intentional, will lead to some larger changes.

It is, after all, time to change the Finance Committee. For four years I have watched student leaders suffer at the whim of this tyrannical committee. The whole asinine system needs an overhaul. Student organizations allotted money through the end-of-Spring budgeting process should have autonomy over those funds. If they run out, that is when the Finance Committee should come into play with its "new money." If they cannot offer a strict accounting or if they abuse the privilege of using their awarded moneys, then the Finance Committee should intercede. But, to have to submit a document to the committee every time you want a nickel for a speaker's reception is not right. It bankrupts the whole process of any educational experience or validity. Right now the Spring budgeting process is essentially a charade.

I recognize the need to inform the Student Activities office about outstanding bills, but surely there must be a way that takes the power out of the hands of one committee and returns it to the student leaders.

The mercy of the Finance Committee decision should be pointed out. They could have placed the $2000 charge on the "irresponsible" student's PIN bill. I would never advocate this. In deciding not to do this, however, they have gone above the existing guidelines. The new rule which they created with their merciful decision was this: "Above some amount determined unreasonable by our committee, the party involved may decide to transfer the burden to his or her organization." In creating a new rule, they have been human, which I applaud, but they have also broken the rules. (It should be pointed out that the Finance Committee does not establish its own rules as it goes along, like a child who realizes his younger sibling is about to beat him at checkers.)

For breaking the rules, I suggest that they also should have some repercussions. The settlement that I suggest is awarding the entirely new board of Otter Creek Journal its allotted money so that the editors can get on with the real work which lies ahead of them.

Call Zac Stillerman and Karen Lewis to tell them that you want the Otter Creek Journal to be published this spring.

Student questions necessity of the automated registration system

After a smooth-sailing J-term and winter recess, Middlebury's students returned to campus this week to face up to the results of M.A.R.S. and spring semester.

Christian Botting '99

Well used to the "warm atmosphere" of dorm life, and having had the luck — for luck it seems to be — to have landed in all of my first choice classes, I was surprised to be caught in the middle of a cold maelstrom of tension as dorm-mates and comrades less fortunate than myself scrambled for an answer to their class scheduling woes.

Covering my ears against the mounting cries of frustration, I asked one red-faced, hair-tugging fellow what the tumult was about. "M.A.R.S.!" he screamed. "M.A.R.S. is to blame!" The room buzzed with sudden angst as other class-catalog wielding students murmured their consensus that M.A.R.S. has contributed to the sudden rise in advisor and dean meetings, and perhaps trips to counseling."

I could understand computer-registration in a bigger school of say 20,000 students — then it would be practical," said another student."

But we're at such a small school [and deserve the] personal attention and guidance that we've been promised, especially during registration. All we get is a computer screen reading 'access denied,' and the rounds feel more like a boxing match than a course registration. [I] can't get into anything I want, and for $30,000 a year I should."

"M.A.R.S. has worked out pretty good," said another, unconcerned friend, "though y'know that there's gonna be a couple of bugs in the system."

I was tempted to agree that this was an improved if not perfect system as memories of registration from last year flitted back to me: the crushing press of anxious bodies racing for department tables in McCullough, the tedious and agitated minutes (hours) of waiting in lines, lines, lines, etc.

However, frantic time spent in the dorm room searching for classes hardly seem more appealing than frantic time spent in McCullough where you can bargain out a deal, or plead your particular case to the department representatives.

M.A.R.S. has no ears or sympathy, and it seems to have made the drop/add period into the true registration for a good number of people. It's a given that the first few weeks of classes are always going to be a bit frantic as students chisel out their schedules and shower professors with drop/add cards, despite the use of M.A.R.S. or the former system.

While we cannot blame the school for wanting a more convenient form of registration, we also wonder if we depend too much on some arbitrary computer system. We can only cross our fingers and pray to M.A.R.S., the computer god, that we will get the classes we want next time around.

Marks' belligerent views examined

A few choice words from Mr. Shawn Marks (Campus Jan. 29, 1997): "How is a person of color supposed to react when their institution is not meeting their basic needs..."; "Maybe the problem with so many Whites feeling restless around Blacks is one of unfamiliarity."; "Many Whites are walking the campus like they belong here more than everybody else."; "Whites and wannabes (minorities who align themselves with Whites for power and privilege)..."; and my personal favorite, "if the tables were turned and Whites had been slaves instead, America wouldn't be controlled by Whites today." Thank you Mr. Marks, for those profound and insightful lessons.

Darren S. Bloch '97.5

My problems with your bitter complaints both last year, when you accused the Middlebury Staff and Administration of being racists because of a misunderstanding in the Crest Room, and this year with your complaints of the Middlebury community not making great enough efforts to ensure the comfort of minorities on the campus, remains the same: you have constantly made claims of racial tension and prejudice when the issues you discuss consistently reveal circumstances you as an individual have encountered, regardless of your racial or cultural background. What disturbs me about your grievances is that you assume that every compromising position and disappointment you have experienced at Middlebury is a direct result of the color of your skin. Mr. Marks, please, let me be the first to tell you, every student here is unsatisfied with the social accommodations, and late-night options. The handful of people found at a McCullough dance parties can attest to this. Shawn, it's not because you're Black, it's because you're stuck like the rest of us in Hill Billy Vermont.

What disturbs me about your grievances is that you assume that every compromising position and disappointment you have experienced at Middlebury is a direct result of the color of your skin.

After having said all that, I would agree with you 100% that the environment created in this remote rural setting far from represents a clear cross section of what America and the world has to offer, and there are no real rules or laws that say it has to. But I would actively support any efforts to bring color and diversity to this otherwise "vanilla" landscape. Individuals with diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives only help the community to hear, understand and reflect on divergent issues.

You are further right in assuming that there are students here who are bigoted and ignorant; you happen to stand amongst them. I'm sure that there are also students here who, as you say "have never been to school with a person of color before," though I have been hard pressed to find any. Yes, America is still plagued with problems of racial tension and civil injustice. You speak of Whites being afraid of Black success and not understanding Blacks. What is there to be afraid of? What is it Whites don't understand? The history of oppression, the stories of prejudice, the sense of inferiority? Mr. Marks, you might be surprised to learn that others have experienced such conditions, and those that have not experienced such situations first hand are becoming ever more exposed and sensitized to these issues.

A week ago you claimed that "a man will only knock on a door for so long; he will holler to the person on the inside to let him in; then he will try to unlock the door; and if it refuses to open, he will break it down crushing everything and everyone behind it." Mr. Marks, wherever you point a finger there are three more pointing back at you. Stop your hollering for a moment and inspect that door — I imagine that a quick study will reveal it as nothing more then a cloud of your own misconceptions of society. And the only thing that needs to come crashing down before you enter are your ignorance and belligerent views towards those of us who live at Middlebury with you.

Clinton's education policy

(continued from page 7)

rather fuzzy in its presentation, but if it consists of standardized, computer-scored, bubble-sheet tests for teachers, it is even worse than his first proposal for student standards. The skills needed to run a creative, motivating, active classroom have absolutely no relation to any standardized test I have ever heard of. Teacher assessment requires intensive, repeated observation of the teacher teaching — probably more observation than even the teacher's own principle current undertakes. If this is what Clinton has in mind, may the Congress appropriate the funds as soon as is humanly possible. But if not, they shouldn't give him a dime to print the bubble-sheets.

The President proceeded by declaring that "we should quickly and fairly remove those few who don't measure up." In this simple statement, tucked away as one clause in a long sentence, Clinton has stepped squarely on the hornets' nest that plagues efforts at educational reform. I cannot think of a single example of a teacher being removed for incompetence in my 12 years in public education — and I have seen or had plenty who were incompetent.

Teaching is a difficult career, as I am learning personally during my part-time student teaching in Bristol this semester. Burn out is epidemic, and burned out or inept teachers ruin opportunities for their students to learn. They waste students' invaluable twelve years of free public education. The problem is: they cannot be removed. Clinton's rhetoric has little hope of changing this. Teachers' unions have thus far ensured that the newest, not the worst, teachers are the first to go when cut backs are called for.

Often it is the most brilliant, fresh, passionate young teacher who loses her job. This must change, but radical reforms and restrictions on the power of the unions will be necessary to destroy the antiquated seniority system. And Democrats have never been known for their ability or willingness to fight the unions.

In Clinton's third proposal, he called for parents to read with their children every night. Amen. Nothing could do more for our children on so many different levels. But one simply has to wonder if the President — the President of a country addicted to dinner in front of the TV — has the ability to really spark any action, any change on this front from his bully pulpit. Probably not. But perhaps he has a better chance than anyone else. Perhaps this part of his speech encouraged just a few dads to read to their two-year-olds a little more often. That would be a start.

Now just think what would happen if we got O.J. to do public service announcements promoting reading to children. Then we might see some action.

Areshidze questions strength of United States

(continued from page 7)

I have absolutely no idea. I do know thought that the media is part of the reason. I do not see a reason for Nightline and Larry King Live to spend days and days talking about some idiotic murderer. I mean look, there are so many pressing things to discuss.

But no, it does not matter that the country is being run by the most corrupt administration in history. It does not matter that a recession is looming, or actually that we are in a anemic state — so basically we are in a recession. It does not matter that the debt is 5 trillion and that the budget must be balanced. What matters is OJ Simpson.

On the night of the State of the Union, when the verdict came, the networks — CNN, CBS, FOX, NBC, ABC, etc., — did not know what to do. Here they had this important day in the US Capitol yet they the verdict was coming. What were they to do?

What happened was embarrassing and disastrous. First, before the two speeches, all of the coverage was about the verdict. At some point, Peter Jennings asked conservative commentator George Will whether the President should possibly consider postponing his speech.

Will got so angry I thought he would go right into the camera into the studio where Jennings was and strangle the guy. Then, right before the speech ended they split the screen, put the President in this tiny box, and in another box announced the verdict.

Finally, when the President ended, everyone turned the coverage back to California. No analysis of Mr. Clinton's lies, no word of the fact that he broke his pledge of "the era of big government is over" by introducing new entitlements. By the time Nightline came on the air it seemed as there had been no speech by the President or Rep. Watts.

The media did all this for a reason. That reason is that the people wanted to know the news about OJ. True, the media's hype about this idiotic case is one of the reasons people wanted to know all they could about it, but there is more. The larger answer is the same answer one must give with regard to the huge discrepancy in the CNN/USA Today poll with regard to the president approval rating and America's future.

The answer lies in the fact that people no longer care. They do not care to vote, they do not care to think, they do not care to wonder about what they are and why are they here. The political character of America has been weakened by all these simplicities and securities of life as well as the expansion of the Federal Government and thus people no longer need to care.

This mentality that "the government must get its act together and fix the problems" that began to spread in the 1960s now dominates everything. With such mentality, why should people care about things that are consequential to their lives. This way they have time to care about things like the OJ Simpson trials, or Madonna's baby, or Tom Cruise's sperm count.

Alexis de Tocqueville wrote in his masterwork, "Democracy in America," that in order to maintain one's liberty a person needs to put them to use not just when he goes to vote, but everyday. A democracy is not only a system of government in which people vote but rather a system where people are engaged everyday in protecting their liberties.

That is why Tocqueville saw New England communities as places where democracy truly existed. Here, in New England towns, if people saw a need for a bridge they would get together and build a bridge, rather then wait for someone else to do it. There is little or almost none of that in America today.

Ever since the Federal Government began to take over all state and local responsibilities, fewer and fewer people have been doing things necessary to protect their freedoms.

Now, people have become so tuned out that they do not even bother and go do the minimal — vote. That is why the State of the Union is not strong, but rather very weak, and the plans that the President proposed last week weaken it still more.

Doonesbury

BY G.B. TRUDEAU

HEY, FUTURE STEP-MOMSTER— STILL WORKING ON THE GUEST LIST?
UH-HUH. I'VE GOT IT DOWN TO UNDER 300.
300? YOU KNOW 300 PEOPLE?
YUP. NOW I'M ORGANIZING THEM IN CATEGORIES SO I CAN PRIORITIZE THEM.
CATEGORIES? WHAT SORT OF CATEGORIES?
OKAY, WELL, LIKE THIS COLUMN IS OLD BOYFRIENDS...
WOW! DADDY BEAT OUT ALL THOSE GUYS?
HOLD IT!
2-10
BOYFRIENDS? YOU WANT TO INVITE BOYFRIENDS?
FORMER BOYFRIENDS! THEY'RE MY BUDS NOW, MY TRIBE!
I UNDERSTAND, BUT THIS IS OUR WEDDING, KIM!
SO? I DON'T SEE WHAT THE BIG DEAL IS.
LOOK, I JUST THINK WE SHOULD HAVE SOME GROUND RULES FOR THE GUEST LIST, OKAY?
LIKE WHAT?
WELL, LIKE, NO PEOPLE WHO'VE SLEPT WITH THE BRIDE.
OH, GREAT! SO WE ONLY INVITE YOUR FRIENDS?
2-11
MICHAEL, I REALLY DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE HAVING SUCH A PROBLEM WITH MY INVITING A FEW MALE FRIENDS TO THE WEDDING...
YOU DON'T?
NO. I MEAN, YOU'VE GOT ALL THESE WOMEN ON YOUR LIST...
LIKE WHO?
WELL, LIKE, WHO'S THIS JOANIE CAUCUS?
UM... MY FORMER MOTHER-IN-LAW.
OH! HOW SPECIAL! SHALL WE SEAT HER AT THE HEAD TABLE?
2-12
YOU'D LIKE TO INVITE YOUR FORMER MOTHER-IN-LAW? I DON'T EVEN WANT TO KNOW WHAT THAT'S ABOUT!
HEY, IT'S NO CRAZIER THAN INVITING OLD BOYFRIENDS FROM YOUR "TRIBE"!
OKAY, OKAY. LET'S MAKE A DEAL...
IN THE INTERESTS OF PEACE, WE WON'T INVITE ANYONE ASSOCIATED WITH OUR RESPECTIVE PAST ROMANTIC HISTORIES, OKAY?
NOT OKAY!
WITH ONE EXCEPTION. OF COURSE.
2-13
SO ARE ALL THESE PEOPLE ON YOUR LIST NECESSARY? LIKE MARK SLACKMEYER?
OF COURSE. HE'S ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS.
AND BARBARA ANN BOOPSTEIN? AND HER MANAGER—B.D.?
WELL, YES. WHAT'S THE PROBLEM?
WELL, LIKE, MY SIDE OF THE AISLE IS GOING TO BE TOTALLY INTIMIDATED BY YOUR SIDE BEING SO CELEBRITY-STUDDED!
CELEBRITY-STUDDED?
PLUS, WHO'S GOING TO PAY FOR THE EXTRA SECURITY?
2-14
YOU KNOW, POPSTER, YOU GUYS OUGHT TO GET MARRIED ON THE SPACE NEEDLE! AND HAVE FIREWORKS OR SOMETHING!
OR HAVE IT AT A CYBER CAFE, SO ALL THE GUESTS CAN PLAY ON THE WEB! OR AT SIT & SPIN, WHERE EVERYONE CAN DANCE AND DO THEIR LAUNDRY AFTER THE CEREMONY!
UM... ACTUALLY, WE WERE THINKING OF A CHURCH.
A CHURCH? WHAT DO PEOPLE DO AT A CHURCH?
GET MARRIED.
PERFECT!
2-15
GO DOONESBURY @ http://www.doonesbury.com

CLASSIFIEDS

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Slackin' with Jay

Jay Tandon

"Ah, the Good Life"

I've really done it this time. It's Wednesday night and *The Campus* comes out in 12 hours. I've pushed the editors to the limit and I can't push no more. Sometimes you can really push, you know? But when it comes down to it, sometimes there's like a brick wall, no, a rubber wall made of tiny bands and if you push too hard they'll snap. I mean, rubber bands are pretty elastic, but who are we trying to kid? It's like the highway — sometimes you can go 55 or 65 mph, but you don't want to go 45 or 75 mph. For many of us, our two-month vacation is over and the stress has returned with no Robin Hood Daze to look forward to. Did I just end that sentence with a preposition? See that? I'm not ready to return to Middlebury life. It's so cold outside, there's nothing but ice, ice, ice. Which is not nice, nice, nice, and today in my apartment I saw a mouse, mouse, mouse. I'm really struggling this time …

I used to write articles pertaining to Midd life, but to tell you the truth, I don't know what's going on out there. I have no more Proctor complaints, there's only so many baths one can take at the Chellis house (1,347) and the government experiment known as "The New Dorms" is too tough to tackle. Everybody is at Angela's right now getting sauced, and I'm sitting in front of my freakin' computer … Honestly, I don't think I could even wax stupid right now. Unfortunately, there is a limit to slacking, and I do believe mine has been reached. Therefore, in the spirit of politicians, secretaries, and circus clowns, I am announcing my resignation as "Slackin' with Jay," opting for a life of punctuality, locality, vocality, and okie-dokie-otality. Let me assure you the adjustment will be harsh. I apologize profusely to my faithful supporters who stuck with me during the really tough articles, but the stress was mounting … I mean, *The Campus* wanted 700 words a week? Do you know how much 700 words is?

I would like to thank the following: Justin F. A. O. Schwarz Racz, my first editor who gave me the inspiration to write. Who knew, Justin, who knew. Secondly, Josh Irwin who hounded me to be on time, instilling in me the responsiblity to my editors that I now possess. Thirdly, Greg Mascolo, the special sauce. You believed in somebody who didn't really have a chance … kind of like Rocky. Fourthly, Sherry Schwarz, whose phonemail voice sends me into eternity and beyond. Fifthly, Amanda … you can make my shoes any day. Finally, my readers. Without you there would be no "Slackin' with Jay." Although I don't know you without your

(see Slacker, page 12)

Otter Nonsense welcomes Febs into college family

By Gwynn Guilford
Staff Writer

Few students at Middlebury have missed the experience of being simultaneously amazed, appalled, and driven into hysterics by the improvisational comedy troupe Otter Nonsense.

Ingeniously funny and, more often than not, exceptionally bizarre, Otter shows have proven to be extremely popular events during the five years since the group's conception.

This past Sunday, incoming Feb students were introduced to the their first taste of Otter humor. In a performance celebrating (and satirizing) the new Febs, the group enacted one student's worst nightmare, followed by several other structures, and finished with an ad-lib musical. The performance also marked the Head Otter Coert Voorhees' final show.

Coert's position as Head Otter will be filled by Andrew Ritter. With two of last semester's members graduating and one leaving to study abroad, 11 Otters remain for the spring semester. These members were selected through auditions, which usually take place at the beginning of each semester. Because the group tries to maintain approximately 10 members each semester, auditions will not be held this spring.

Otter Nonsense was created in February of 1991 by former students Gene Swift and Matt Lane, both of whom graduated in 1993. Improvisational sketch groups and popular skit-oriented shows like "Saturday Night Live" served as the inspiration for the founders of the Otters. The idea for the name of the group is obviously a play on the phrase utter nonsense. Explained current Otter Brooke Capps '97, "The name became 'otter' because there were already way too many cow jokes." Middlebury's proximity to Otter Creek and the playful nature of otters also contributed to making the name of the comedy group appropriate.

Though their sketches often seem out-of-control and illogically spontaneous, the Otters' performances actually adhere to certain patterns of acting called "structures." The Otter Nonsense archives contain over 200 structures, even though they haven't been updated in several years. There are also many books published on the subject of improvisational comedy.

Furthermore, the members often invent structures or adapt the original structures created by other improvisational comedy groups to add variety to their performances. "We are definitely not above stealing from other groups!" stated Capps.

The Otters are looking forward to having an opportunity to "steal" some structures and hone their skills at an improvisational comedy festival to be held at Hamilton College in two weeks. Said Ritter, "I'm really looking forward to [the festival]; it should be exciting." The competition will involve 10 to 12 improvisational groups from other schools, with the best group receiving a $300 cash prize.

Greg Mascolo

The Otter Nonsense Players model for the upcoming L.L. Bean catalog.

The practices for Otter Nonsense are held twice a week and are usually two hours long. During practices, members focus on improving their word association skills and rehearsing new structures. The members must be able to react instantaneously and without hesitation on stage, whether the task at hand is completing a rhyme or assuming another role in a sketch. While the practices give the Otters opportunities to exer-

(see Otter Nonsense, page 11)

EQ leads movement against food waste

By David Sterrett
Staff Writer

Food that students put on their trays but do not eat is a big problem on campus. In November, when members of the Environmental Quality Club weighed this type of waste in Proctor it averaged out to .44 pounds per person! The current trend seems to be that many students are putting way too much food on their trays. Unfortunately, a lot of it never gets touched.

To combat this problem, EQ is making the reduction of food waste on campus one of its major projects for the spring. We are trying to raise awareness about this issue by weighing food waste in front of the diners at Proctor during selected dinners. We weigh meat in a separate bin from the rest of the food, so we can establish a total estimate of the amount of meat wasted as well.

"We can improve the quality of food on campus if we cut down on food waste."

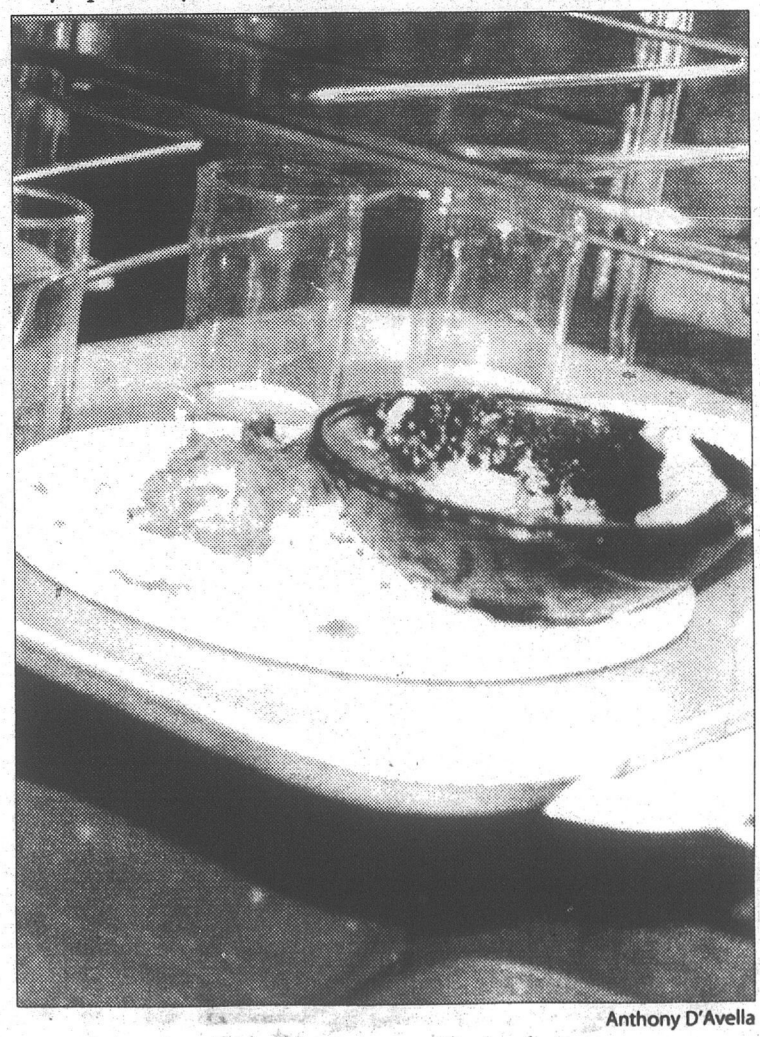
Wasting food has a direct effect on the day-to-day life of every college student here.

The food that is wasted is money wasted out of Dining Services' budget, money that could otherwise be spent on improving the meals here. As Russell Hulst, the board plan manager at Proctor said, "We can improve the quality of food on campus if we cut down on food waste."

This type of waste also affects our lives in ways that are less visible to us. For example, the food we eat goes through many stages of production before it ends up on the serving line at Proctor. Much of this production process negatively impacts the environment.

Growing crops can also be extremely destructive to our world. First of all, crops need a lot of water to grow. In many cases that water is drawn from rivers — a process which ends up killing the ecosystems of these rivers. Then, to transport the water to a farm re-

(see EQ, page 13)



Anthony D'Avella

Every day students waste large amounts of food, reducing scarce resources.

New shuttle bus provides community transportation

By Sherry Schwarz
Features Editor

The college may seem close to the town, but add a few feet of snow and a lot of ice, and you're talking one long cold walk to get there. Fortunately, this winter students need not struggle to get into town. In fact, students no longer even need a car to get out of town or to Exchange Street or Route 7, because Addison County Transit Resources (ACTR) now operates a Middlebury shuttle bus Monday through Saturday from 8:45 a.m. to 6:35 p.m. Sarah Kabir '99, who has been riding the bus since the beginning of the year, said, "The bus has been wonderful. We have a very friendly driver. The service is really helpful to me because I don't have a car, and because I cannot stand the cold."

The bus route begins at Marble Works, circles the entire college, passes Porter Hospital, makes its way back into town, and then transports passengers to various locales on the outskirts of town. David Winter, the Middlebury shuttle bus driver from Monday through Thursday, said that the stops he makes are not limited to those on the schedule. "I'll stop to pick anyone up anywhere," he said. "Feel free to flag me down, as long as you're not standing at a dangerous spot." Winter hopes that as advertising for this new shuttle increases, more people will take advantage of it. Currently, he estimates that a combined 25 local citizens and students

(see Shuttle bus, page 13)

Thesis writer relieved to hand in the final chapter

Liz Morgan
Staff Writer

Now what?

So I'm done. In the words of a great man, "Free at last, free at last, thank God almighty..." On January 30, I handed in my thesis. Countless hours of research and rewriting, the culmination of five toilsome months of my academic career now lies in limbo, awaiting a grade. But there is no way that anyone can grade my thesis experience, for the word "thesis" has come to mean much more to me than three chapters and a bibliography. Although I've come to despise the pronunciation of the word "thesis," the lispy "th" followed by the hiss of the "is," I've come to appreciate its implications. It was an invaluable experience.

So what did I learn? I learned that I should have been more detailed in the notes I took in September because in January, they made little, if any, sense. I learned that when attempting to write a 100-page paper, an extensive outline is quite useful. I learned to differentiate interesting from relevant. I wanted another week, but at the end of that extra week I would have wanted yet another. I bit off all my nails, and when they were gone I moved on to my hangnails. I skipped meals, skipped meetings, missed birthdays, and missed five new episodes of "Party of Five." I thoughtlessly returned a book from the Worcester Public Library to the Middlebury library. It still hasn't turned up. It was the time of my life when I should have felt the smartest, pursuing such a challenge, yet most of the time I felt dumb and incompetent. I broke down in tears in Proctor once, on the phone twice, and trying to fall asleep three times because my brain wouldn't stop thinking. I lost pages of notes, fought bouts of nausea, and acquired a chronic bloody nose problem from the dryness of the library. One of my friends started wearing a bandanna to hold her brain inside her head.

I lost track of days, dates, and of time. I rarely got hungry, I just got caffeine-withdrawal headaches telling me it was time for another trip to the Crest Room. I parked in 15-minute parking for 12 hours, called my mother at three in the morning and when she hung up on me I called the Psychic Friends Network. Nobody answered. I returned CDs from the music library three weeks late, charged dinner for five on my Dad's American Express, cut the line at Proctor, and blamed it all on my thesis. I starting talking like Edith Wharton, saying things like "I should think," using words like "quite" and "rather." And I swear that she visited me in my sleep, twice.

I procrastinated. I did e-mail and read back-issues of *People*. I wrote limericks about Henry James and a haiku about Ethan Frome. I wrote letters — one to Demi Moore, saying that I knew how her character in "St. Elmo's Fire" felt as she sat, freezing to death, cross-legged on the floor of her empty apartment rocking back and forth, with the windows open and the curtains blowing in the wind. The second was an intellectual insult to a writer at the *Boston Globe* who, in a 1995 article, mistakenly wrote that Edith Wharton's husband's name was Theodore. (His nickname was Teddy, but his given name was Edward.) I haven't heard back from either of them.

Fortunately, throughout this process, I was not alone. There was a whole group of people like me who were in the library from 9:00 a.m. until Mark Proctor came through the downstairs computer room in the library with his walkie-talkie and said "Fifteen minutes 'till closing," and then we went to Voter until we could keep our eyes open no longer. We ate lunch together, we left encouraging quotes on each other's carrels. We survived the "unrecoverable disk errors" and the frozen computers. We drove to the Grand Union in the middle of the night, we shared tips about left margin width and footnote format, we e-mailed each other good luck totem poles, we cried together, and we played tag in the moveable space-saver stacks in the Meredith Wing when things got really bad.

We found it difficult to relate to those who weren't writing theses. With the exception of the English majors, nobody seemed to have anything to do; they watched three movies in-a-row and made shrinky-dinks. Yet they laughed as we carried our royal blue diskette holders next to our hearts everywhere; they mocked our disdain for the MLA. They would observe our seemingly bizarre behavior, roll their eyes at each other and mutter that desultory word, "thesis," without fully understanding its implications.

But what did I miss? Making brownies, drinking cheap beer, and watching "The Simpsons?" I don't consider that a sacrifice. I did miss my friends, and I think they missed me too, but now I'm back, I'm the same person, and I haven't missed a beat. Writing a thesis wasn't a sacrifice because it's always been a planned part of my college career. At times I doubted that I could do it, but I did, and I'm proud of the result. The sad part is that besides the Am. Civ. department, nobody really cares that I've written a thesis. It won't get me a job, it won't find me a husband, and it won't make me a million dollars. But it has become a part of me, a formative part of my Middlebury experience, and the results of my five months of hard work are much more intangible than 87 pages of 8.5 by 11 paper.

So what now? Back to life as usual. I've been sleeping much better, and I'm reacquiring my social skills, while looking back on my thesis experience with reminiscent nostalgia. In a weird way, I miss it. Don't be discouraged by my lamentations. By all means, write a thesis, and here is my advice: leave plenty of time for revisions, set aside an entire afternoon for spell-check, and make a mountain out of each molehill. A thesis is a big deal.

SO, HAVE YOU MET ANY OF THE NEW FEBS?
YEAH, THEY'RE PRETTY COOL. THEY KINDA RE-ENERGIZE THINGS AROUND HERE JUST AS EVERYONE BEGINS TO GROW ACCUSTOMED TO THE ROUTINE.
AND BESIDES, THEY'RE EVEN MORE CLUELESS THAN US FRESHMEN.
FIRST-YEARS.
WHATEVER.
HEY, LOOK! THERE'S ONE NOW.
HOW CAN YOU TELL?
WELL, FOR STARTERS, HE'S STUCK IN THE MIDDLE OF THE SALAD BAR.
AT LEAST HE DIDN'T GO FOR THE JUICE AT DINNER.
SINICK 2.12.97

Slacker quits

(continued from page 11)

support my column surely would have been axed following my article on Super Mario Brothers being an endorsement for drug use and capitalism. Those of you out there who are listening, I hope I touched you in some way, or shed some light on an issue that boggled your mind. And for those new Febs who missed my article entitled, "I Know the Meaning of Life and Here it is," don't worry, that's for you to discern. Because, it's not about you or me, or us or them, or it or you (plural) — it's about everyone — and everyone has a right to party. Midd Hockey rules!

P.S. I'm sorry I'm a little choked up right now ... excuse me...

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Shuttle bus provides transportation for Middlebury community

(continued from page 9)
ride the bus each day. "The worse the weather, the more ridership," says Winter. "When it's raining, people jump on the bus."

During the summer of 1995 the shuttle originated as a private enterprise for the Sugar Bush Train, when Roch MacIntyre, owner of MacIntyre Fuels, and Tony Neri, owner of Middlebury Vending and Angela's Restaurant, purchased its services from Marble Valley Regional Transit District (MVRTD). It was used solely as a means of transportation for tourists to be taken from the train into town, as well as to the various local attractions, such as Morgan Horse Farm. When MacIntyre and Neri stopped providing the tourist shuttle service, substantial discussion about its necessity for the community motivated ACTR to find a way to fund this service for an entire year.

He estimates that a combined 25 local citizens and students ride the bus each day. "The worse the weather, the more ridership," says Winter. "When it's raining, people jump on the bus."

In the early months of 1996, ACTR applied for and received the Congestion Mitigation Air Quality Grant (CMAQ) from the Vermont Agency of Transportation. This grant alleviates a majority of the expenses which ACTR incurs when operating the shuttle. ACTR was awarded the grant on the premise that it would have three years to demonstrate its ability to institute a shuttle service, build its ridership by accommodating local people and visitors, alleviate traffic congestion, and decrease air pollution. Whether or not ACTR is able to fulfill all of its goals, the CMAQ grant will continue to provide ACTR with eighty cents of every dollar it spends to run the shuttle until May of 1998. The remaining twenty cents which ACTR spends to operate the shuttle comes from a variety of local institutions. Director of ACTR Vi Brace said, "Among the sources from which we have received additional funding have been Middlebury College and the National Bank of Middlebury."

Over the next few months, ACTR plans to increase its advertising campaign for the shuttle. "We're trying to make the general public aware of the service in a variety of ways," said Brace. Once more people are aware of this free transportation service, ridership ought to increase. As Dominik Zynis '00 said, "It's very convenient." That's exactly why it is important to so many people, especially those who do not have cars. "I've seen a few elderly people taking a cab from the senior-citizens' housing to the state office building. They could save themselves $2.50 by using our shuttle instead." So, the next time you're slipping down the sidewalk on your way into town, try waving down the red and gray shuttle bus and enjoy the ride.

Mark Moynier

Addison County Transit Resources sponsors this Middlebury shuttle bus, which gives students a needed lift.

Otter Nonsense Players welcome Febs to college

(continued from page 11)
cise their mental reflexes, they also get a chance to enjoy themselves. "My favorite thing about being an Otter is it gives me a chance a few times a week to have fun and play and be goofy," commented Ritter. "You're with a bunch of people you know are psyched to be goofy with you. And you know that you can say anything, no matter how offensive, and they know you are only doing it for the humor of it."

The Otters' performances take place four or five times each semester. Shows in McCullough are reserved for major events like Parents' Weekend and the night before classes begin each semester. This year, Otters performances have left their audiences with some truly memorable moments. Many first-years still recall their surprise when the curtain opened during their September orientation performance to reveal three stark naked, though strategically covered, Otters who were commenting on Vermont weather. For those who attended the finals performance in the fall semester, Tyson Lien's goggle-eyed face submerged upside-down in a fish tank stands out vividly. Commented Otter Nonsense fan Marcella Cheung '00 on her impressions of the group, "They have a really amazing ability to improvise and twist words around. When necessary, they can come together effectively, while at other times they shine as individuals."

Though with each performance members of Otter Nonsense endure huge amounts of pressure and are forced to exert themselves mentally and physically in order to deliver comic relief to their audiences, they rarely leave the stage without some sort of gratification. Says Capps of her experience as an Otter, "How can you complain about making people laugh? It is one of the best things in the world and it's always kind of fun hearing people say, 'I almost peed my pants.'" The rewards of being an Otter are greater still, as Craig Bouchard '99 points out: "Hey, I get to wear the shirt. It adds to my wardrobe!"

EQ leads movement against food waste

(continued from page 11)
quires a great deal of energy consumption. The energy that is used for this procedure is usually a non-renewable resource such as coal or oil.

Further adding to the harmful elements of growing crops is the fact that at many farms around the country crops are sprayed with numerous pesticides which seep into groundwater and poison it for humans and all other animals.

The next stage of production is delivering these crops to various stores. When they are shipped to their appropriate locations, crops are usually put in an abundance of unnecessary packaging, which eventually finds its way into a landfill. By the end of the growth and transportation process of these crops, it becomes evident that we have depleted a large amount of non-renewable resources, as well as added to pollution.

After all of the environmental destruction it has caused to grow and ship food to our school — not to mention the energy it takes for the Proctor staff to prepare it — we end up wasting it. In essence, we have reduced precious resources and polluted our world for nothing.

There are still other reasons for reducing our food waste. Meat composes a large part of the food wasted on campus.

We are so removed from the process by which our meat comes to us, that we often forget we are eating what was once an animal. These animals sacrifice their lives so we can eat meat. If we waste it, then those animals died for nothing.

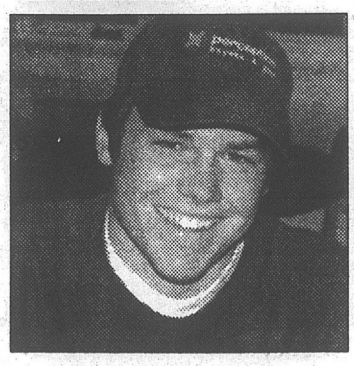
Perhaps the most important reason for not wasting food is that many people do not have any food to eat; the food we waste would keep them alive.

I know the food at the dining halls is not as good as a home-cooked meal, but, if we go to eat with the idea of trying to waste as little food as possible, we all can make a big difference.

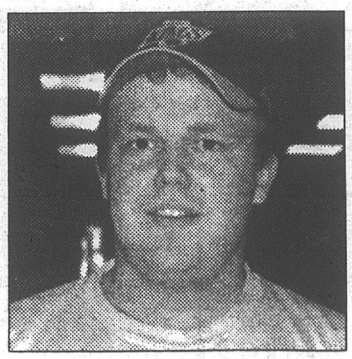
If you would like to find out more about the Weigh Your Waste project, write or call me or come to EQ meetings on Wednesday nights at 7 p.m. on the 3rd floor of Adirondack House. All are welcome!

CAMPUS VOICES

What gift would you like to receive for Valentine's Day?



"Roses and some funky boxers."
— *Sam Elmore '00.5*



"Pamela Anderson wrapped in a gun holster and bowtie."
— *Jani Heikkonen '97*

"Anything would be a start."
— *Caroline Kellogg '98*

"A job."
— *Stacy Roose '97*

Compiled by Greg Mascolo

Photos by Anthony D'Avella

WOODY'S 388-4182
5 Bakery Lane Middlebury, VT
Bloody Marys $1.00 Bloody Marys $1.00 Bloody Marys $1.00
Sunday Brunch 10:30 - 3:00

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FoxTrot

THIS MAGAZINE ARTICLE SUGGESTS THAT IF LAS VEGAS CONTINUES TO GROW AT ITS CURRENT RATE...
...SOMETIME NEXT CENTURY IT'LL HAVE ENOUGH HOTEL ROOMS TO HOUSE THE ENTIRE U.S. POPULATION.
© 1997 Bill Amend/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
I JUST HAVE ONE QUESTION.
WHAT DO PEOPLE SEE IN THAT PLACE?
NO, NO - HOW DO I GET A PIECE OF THE ACTION?
I REALLY HATE THESE NIGHTS WHEN YOU GET YOUR HOMEWORK DONE EARLY.
2-10
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
RESEARCHING RESORT CASINOS.
CONNIE'S TRAVEL-GUIDE
WHAT ON EARTH FOR?
IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T HEARD, LAS VEGAS IS FAST BECOMING THE VACATION CENTER OF THE UNIVERSE.
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SO YOU WANT TO TAKE A TRIP THERE?
I WANT TO BUILD A HOTEL THERE.
2-11
I ALWAYS FORGET TO SKIP THE OBVIOUS LINE OF REASONING.
WHAT DO HOTELS COST, BY THE WAY?
OK, THE FIRST THING I NEED TO DO IS COME UP WITH A THEME FOR MY VEGAS RESORT CASINO.
LET'S SEE... THERE'S ALREADY AN EGYPTIAN ONE... ALREADY A PIRATE ONE... ALREADY ONE BASED ON ANCIENT ROME...
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WHAT'S A GOOD THEME THEY HAVEN'T DONE YET? HMM...
2-12
THINK, JASON, THINK...
Velociraptor
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PAIGE, CAN I ASK YOUR OPINION ABOUT SOMETHING?
MAYBE.
SUPPOSE SOMEONE WERE TO BUILD A GIGANTIC, DINOSAUR-THEMED HOTEL AND CASINO. WOULD YOU AND YOUR FRIENDS WANT TO STAY AT A PLACE LIKE THAT?
PROBABLY NOT.
2-13
MY HOTEL IDEA IS POLLING BETTER THAN I'D THOUGHT.
YOU SHOULD MAKE THE EXITS LOOK LIKE T. REX HEADS. THAT WAY, NO ONE WILL EVER WANT TO LEAVE.
JASON, SWEETIE, I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW MUCH TIME YOU'RE WASTING ON THIS.
ARE YOU KIDDING? MY "JURASSIC ISLAND" CASINO IDEA IS BRILLIANT!
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JASON, YOU'RE 10 YEARS OLD! A DINOSAUR-THEMED HOTEL IN LAS VEGAS WOULD COST MILLIONS, IF NOT BILLIONS, OF DOLLARS!
YOU DON'T HAVE ACCESS TO THAT KIND OF MONEY!
MOTHER, TRUST ME. THIS CASINO WILL MORE THAN PAY FOR ITSELF.
WHY DO THESE DICE HAVE SOME OF THEIR EDGES FILED DOWN?
SAY, YOU MIGHT KNOW - IS THERE A LAW THAT SAYS SLOT MACHINES HAVE TO PAY OUT?
2-14
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LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT, JASON.
YOUR IDEA FOR A RESORT HOTEL IS TO HAVE LIFE-SIZE ROBOT DINOSAURS OUT FRONT, LIFE-SIZE ROBOT DINOSAURS IN THE POOLS, LIFE-SIZE ROBOT DINOSAURS IN THE RESTAURANTS, AND HAVE THE STAFF DRESSED UP IN DINOSAUR COSTUMES?
NO OFFENSE, SON, BUT DID AN ANVIL FALL ON YOUR HEAD TODAY OR SOMETHING?
IT'D BE FOR LAS VEGAS.
2-15
OH. WELL, IN THAT CASE...
DON'T FORGET THE BEST PART - A T.REX IN EVERY ROOM!

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE NEW ENGLAND INTERCOLLEGIATE LITERARY JOURNAL is now accepting submissions. Submit stories of no more than 20 double-spaced, typed pages, and poems of no more than 2 pages, to the following address: N.E.I.L. Journal, Drawer 12, Middlebury College, Middlebury, VT 05753 or e-mail: neicj@panther.middlebury.edu All submissions must be received by February 25, 1997.

OVERHEARD

"Don't tickle me there."
Surgically altered
Tickle-Me-Elmo doll
in Painter

"He's a Republican… of course he's malicious."
Munroe

"I wouldn't say I'm desperate… Just easy. Very easy."
Upper Proctor

"I can stick my hands in anyone's box!"
The Campus Office

"I feel disgusting."
The Campus Office

Courageous 'Gimpel' opera lacks artistic unity, vision

Ray Heitman

The cast of the bold opera "Gimpel the Fool" put their production together over the course of one J-term.

By Maciej Ceglowski
Staff Writer

Writing a review of "Gimpel the Fool" seems as uncharitable as criticizing someone's elementary school play. Everyone works hard to get it together, everyone's happy and excited to be onstage, and only the most pitiless and indelicate audience member would point out that the kid dressed up as an apple forgot his lines and that the girl in the carrot costume tripped over the curtain. There were moments during "Gimpel" where one does feel transported back to elementary school, as when Gimpel (Jeremy Davidson) sings a duet with the very young and heavily amplified goat played by Mark Evancho's son. But it was a college show nonetheless, and so a college review is in order.

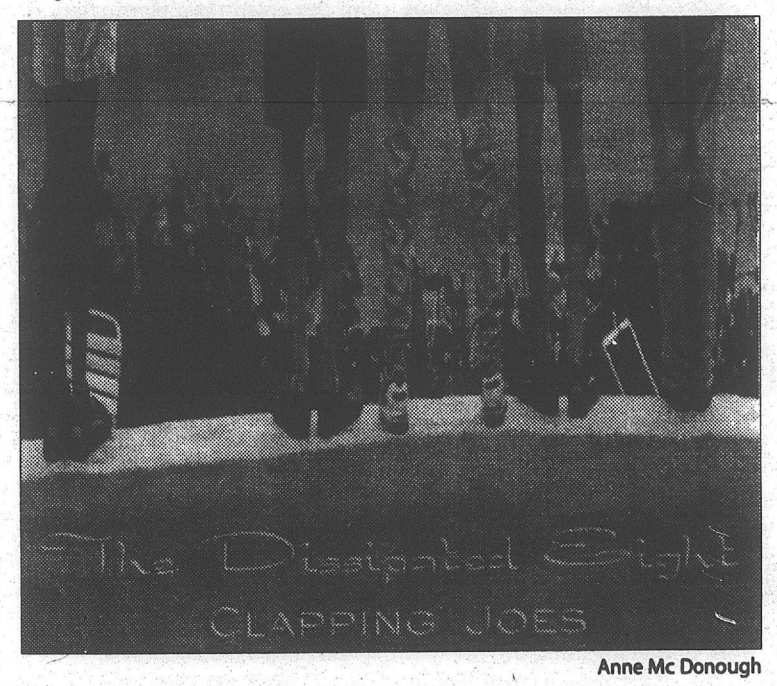
"Gimpel" was the fruit of several different sources. Based on a short story by Isaac Bashevis Singer, the opera is set in the fictional Jewish town of Frampol, presumably in Poland, at the turn of the century. The libretto and music for the show were written beginning in the fall term by 300-level students working with Bob Pack from the English department and Su Lian Tan from the Music department, while the rest of the production was assembled over the month of January by a large group of students working harrowing hours.

The most charitable word one can apply to this opera is "bold". The idea of producing an opera from scratch in the course of one month is "bold" to the point of audacity, and the creators of "Gimpel" deserve credit for sheer speed, if nothing else. They have performed the theatrical equivalent of an all-nighter to get the show on stage, and just the fact that the set does not come crashing down, putting a premature end to the show, is a minor miracle considering the incredible time constraints imposed on the cast and crew.

Whether a premature end to the show would have been a bad thing is another matter altogether. There are undeniably positive aspects to the production: The enthusiasm of the performers was encouraging and infectious. The set design was not only structurally sound, but elegant and harmonious. The various supporting elements worked well, and the combination of costumes and lighting in the memorable dough scene was a visual high point of the production. There are bright glimmers of talent throughout the show: The kitty cat cavorting on the roof was a wistful touch, Victoria Lomax's amazing voice carried the show safely past several rough spots, and Davidson can always be relied on to look poignant and earnest, a sort of Forrest Gimpel.

Unfortunately, both the libretto and the score seem intent on making a good performance impossible for any of the players. Both elements suffer from the effects of collaborative work, lacking consistency, dynamic tension and unity, although the music does come into its own at certain happy moments. The libretto favors high comedy and cries out for a laugh track, as in this exchange between Elka and her lover: "Gimpel always up before dawn, leaving me to the affairs of

(see Gimpel, page 15)



Anne Mc Donough

The D-8 found themselves in the national a capella spotlight when "Clapping Joes" was nominated by CASA for best album of the year.

D-8 album shines in national spotlight

By Maya Thiagarajan
Arts Editor

Last August, right before the school year began, a group of twelve talented Middlebury students spent five days together in Boston. These students had a vision they wanted to achieve. They wanted to create the best album of a capella music that they possibly could. They worked long, hard twelve hour days in a professional recording studio. The result was the Dissapated 8 CD titled "The Clapping Joes."

At Middlebury, "The Clapping Joes" was hugely successful. However, the accolade that "The Clapping Joes" received didn't stop with Middlebury. The CD was nominated by CASA (The College Acapella Society of America) for best acapella album of the year. Their upbeat song titled "For what it's worth," was nominated for best song. "For what it's worth" is also featured on the album BOCA (Best of College Acapella), compiled by CASA, as one of the twenty best acapella songs in the country.

CASA receives approximately two hundred CDs from a capella groups all around the country every year. They then nominate four songs for each of the following categories: Best solo, Best arrangement, Best song and Best album. The D-8 are currently in the running for best album and best song against esteemed groups like the Wesleyan Spirits and the Yale Wiffenpoofs. The results will be announced in April.

The last three years have witnessed a crucial turning point for the D-8. With increasing amounts of energy and motivation, the group has become much more musically focussed. They have widened their repertoire of music considerably. At present, the group perfects at least four new songs a semester. The D-8 now play a wide variety of music ranging from old songs dating back to the 1930's to more contemporary rap, funk and soft rock favorites.

The D-8 began as a group of eight young men in 1952. The group has grown over the years and now consists of twelve singers . Since a large number of their members will be graduating soon, the D8's are holding auditions on Wednesday, February 19, and they urge all interested students to attend.

'Gravity's Rainbow' propelled by complexity, sophistication

Another Word for Art

By David Keeling

When it was initially released in 1973, Thomas Pynchon's novel "Gravity's Rainbow" (Penguin Books, 1973) plunged into a flurry of praise, commendation, and conflict.

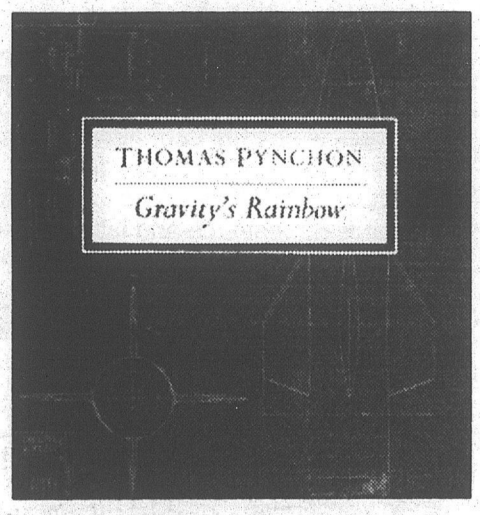
While reviewers compared the book to Joyce's "Ulysses" and Melville's "Moby Dick," the novel caused confrontation during the Pulitzer awards, where judges and trustees were at such polarities that no award for fiction was given that year — the only year such an event (or non-event) has ever occurred. Today, the book continues to be seen as Pynchon's masterwork, a novel beautiful in its intricacy, vivid in its imagery, and awe-inspiring in its numerous satirical messages.

I feel it is important, particularly in the days of John Grisham and other New York bestseller-types, that not only authors but also readers look to such books as "Gravity's Rainbow" for inspiration and entertainment, to delve a bit deeper into their language and literature.

Quite frankly, the novel is incredible. It begins on December 8, 1944, and focuses primarily on the Nazi V-2 rockets that were falling on England.

The book follows a number of varied characters through a number of subplots, but eventually centers on Slothrop, a man who (British Intelligence discovers) has been marking down on a map of London points of his "sexual conquests" which — eerily enough — coincide precisely to a separate map denoting V-2 impact sites. A troupe of Pavlovian psychiatrists begins to follow and discreetly test Slothrop, and they find that — even eerier — he's been marking his map days before the rockets actually hit. The implications of these findings launch the plot of the book, propelling Slothrop all over World War II Europe, fleeing from an army of military personnel, industrial corporations, psychiatrists, and bizarre friends and associations.

The evocative and beautiful aspects of the novel, that is to say, the parts that make the novel "art," or "literature," I feel are derived from its extraordinary complexity. Pynchon has created a work that fuses science, literature, culture, theology, fiction and innumerable other segments of the world (and other worlds, for that matter, noting the brief paragraph on the sentience of pinballs) into one enormous, profound, pulsing tale that sprouts and blossoms right before the reader's scanning eyes.



The intricacy of the book's structure is perhaps the most significant: the book is cyclical, fastidiously molded around specific events of the Christian and astrological calenders. Dates in the book are not arbitrary; rather they hold elaborate significance, whether that meaning originates from the day that "the giant scapeape" of Marion Cooper's film "King Kong" stepped off of Skull Island, or the day that the atomic bomb was dropped on Hiroshima. As Steven Weisenburger writes, "It combines the elegance of a preordained structure and the unintelligibility of pure coincidence."

This intricacy of structure sets the pattern for the rest of the book, and it becomes clear that

(see Gravity, page 14)

'Star Wars' proves timeless, enthralls new generation of fans

By Andrea Yevuta
Staff Writer

Who among us can claim to have escaped the legendary power of The Force? "Star Wars" is quite possibly the most widely viewed, and occasionally worshipped, movie (or in this case, trilogy of movies) of the past twenty years.

In much the same way that our fathers bemoan the loss of that special Mickey Mantle rookie card or Action Comics #1, we talk about when we had hundreds of the original action figures, the model of the ice planet, Hoth, and a special edition of the Millennium Falcon. Our regret drips out: If only we had kept these cherished treasures, we would all be millionaires now, but instead, most of us watched as they were sold at yard sales, ingested by the family dog, or perhaps underwent amputations of various limbs.

If only we had kept these cherished treasures... instead, most of us watched as they were sold at yard sales, ingested by the family dog, or perhaps underwent amputation of various limbs.

While many of the physical remembrances of our original fascination with the "Star Wars" have been lost, the spirit of the movies remain. This spirit is best exemplified by the recent re-release of the first installment of the trilogy, digitally remastered and, as commercials for the films purport, ready for a "new generation" of fans. As if three of the top-grossing movies of all time needed a boost, George Lucas, director of the first installment of the trilogy and head of the multi-zillion dollar empire that is "Star Wars," has added scenes that were originally removed from the final cuts of the movies and has used current technology to beef up battle sequences. Perhaps he is adhering to the "Field of Dreams" message of "if you build it, they will come," but in the case of "Star Wars," it seems that you couldn't pay them to stay away.

Lucas claims that the new changes result from his original vision for the movies. Others, however, have accused him of re-releasing the movies simply because he wants to create interest in the forthcoming prequels to the "Star Wars" trilogy, as if this is somehow contemptible (we do live in a capitalist society). Some self-described purists complain that the insertion of new scenes degrades the essence of the movies. The scenes themselves have been criticized for their redundancy, and still others have questioned the general quality of the movies, with or without the new footage.

Why criticize what many people would call the greatest cinematic experience of their lives? Traditionally, God and politics are the two subjects most likely to elicit an argument between people, and in many ways, "Star Wars" is a religion for some people. A classic struggle between good and evil, it has a large number of devoted followers, it has lasted for a long time, and people have strong opinions about it. Admittedly, these are not the only characteristics of a religion, but they provide a good framework for understanding the "Star Wars" phenomenon and the strong reactions to its re-release.

The additional footage in "Star Wars" and the new special effects, are extraneous to the true objective of the re-release, namely to recreate the feeling of seeing the movies in the theater with the unforgettable and unmistakable soundtrack of John Williams blaring. Seeing a young Harrison Ford, now arguably the biggest box office draw in the world, blast his way out of the Mos Eisley cantina is thrilling.

It is also interesting to reflect on the career turns of the film's other stars, Carrie Fisher, who is now a renowned novelist after a struggle with substance abuse, and Mark Hamill, who provides the voice of the Joker for the animated "Batman" series. It is likely that none anticipated the direction that their lives would take, especially Hamill, the film's main star, who saw his career quickly fizzle after a number of box-office failures.

An Internet search for "Star Wars" is likely to generate links to hundreds of web sites devoted to the topic, the "Star Wars" fan club can claim hundreds of thousands of members, "Star Wars" toys are still among the best sellers in the industry, and the stars of the movies are still widely remembered for the roles they played "a long time ago, in a galaxy far, far away." Although many reviewers have lately been voicing their opinions on the movies, the most important opinion, that of the fans, has been consistent since the original release of "Star Wars" in 1977. It is, and will continue to be, one of the biggest cultural events of the end of the twentieth century.

Courtesy photo

The re-release of the Star Wars Trilogy enthralls a new generation

'Gravity's Rainbow' is colored by intricacies

(continued from page 13)

each following aspect is just as complex. It is a novel in which fairytales are realized, conspiracies are everywhere, and the outrageous is essential.

Pynchon's characters are wild and imaginative, elegantly inspired and often satires and caricatures of prominent figures of 1960s and '70s society. They speak in a multitude of languages, including Hebrew, German, Kazakh, Russian, Spanish, French, Japanese, and Herero, as well as in slang and jargon from technical fields, pop culture, the underworld, and folklore.

I find the book breathtaking because it merges so many different cultures and images so well; the melange of language and detail lacks comparison.

In one section, Pynchon narrates, "The pig and Slothrop settled down to sleep among pines thick with shreds of tinfoil, a cloud of British window dumped to fox the German radars in some long-ago raid, a whole forest of Christmas trees, tinsel rippling in the wind, catching the starlight, silent, ice-cold crownfire acres wild over their heads all night" (p.575). The passage serves as a good example of the book; undeniably weird but at the same time not weird enough to be unbelievable, and sprinkled throughout with factual anecdotes.

Thomas Pynchon's book "Gravity's Rainbow," like the infamous rocket "00000" that Slothrop pursues throughout the book, is a novel well worth chasing, a brilliant burst into the sky that lingers in our eyes, its brightness splashed onto our vision, where it remains long after we've set the book down.

Attention: students, faculty, administration, and residents from the surrounding area!

A charette to brainstrom program and design ideas for the proposed **New Environmental Center**

March 1, 1997
4:00 - 8:00 pm
dinner and raffle

Please contribute your energy and ideas to creating a vision of an environmental center at Middlebury College which models the principles of sustainability and provides hands-on research and learning facilities for a broad spectrum of disciplines.

Specialistis on the subjects of environmental architecture and landscape design, and sustainable agriculture will be present to help facilitate the event.

Sign up now
and you will receive information on the event, including a program agenda, through the mail.

You will find a sign-up list on the EQ board in the mail room.
Alternatively, notify
Jen Hazen, Envrionmental Coordinator
x5043
Facilities, Service Building.

'Oranj Symphonette' renews Mancini

By Sam Folk-William
Staff Writer

Oranj Symphonette is a new project jazz band fronted by bassist/celloist Matt Brubeck and composed of musicians from the bands of Tom Waits and PJ Harvey. The band was formed by Brubeck to play the classic songs of film composer Henry Mancini.

CD Review

Oranj Symphonette Plays Mancini
Oranj Symphonette

On their debut album, Oranj Symphonette Plays Mancini , the group does renditions of thirteen of Mancini's greatest tunes ranging in style from classic jazz, to rocky modern and experimental jazz, to the type of bachelor-pad lounge music you might expect to find on the latest Martini Madness compilation

The album begins with a straighforward, upbeat and blaring version of "A Shot in the Dark, " and then quickly moves into a moody and somewhamt more interesting rendition of "Experiment in Terror." Here we hear Brubeck's cello slowly and methodically bleeding out the melody on top of the highly reverberated guitar line, sax solos and organ sounds while the steady and driving drum beat builds the wondering sounds to a climax.

The group then puts forth a version of the classic Pink Panther theme song. Beginning in the traditional way, with the quiet bass line and the famous sax melody the song quickly grows louder and faster with some fairly good guitar work filling out the tune.

The mid-point, and high point, of the album comes with the group's rendition of "Moon River." Covering a song so well-known and familiar to virtually all audiences is always a challenge, arid Oranj Symphonette does a wonderful job of it.

The song has two parts; it begins with echoing guitar feedback sounds which are then joined by the sax and cello playing long, slow notes. Brubeck then begins to play the melody in a subtle and skillful way, by sort of hiding it behind the ambient sounds of the other instruments The result is quite beautiful, and soon as this part comes to an end the bass picks up a Latin beat, the drums come in loud and crisp and the sax plays a punchy and scattered rendition of the melody with an upbeat Latin rhythm.

After this the group brings us right back to the more lucid lounge music with the happy tunes of "Charade," "Mr. Lucky," and "March of the Cue Balls."

The album ends with a song that combines both "Baby Elephant Walk" and "Peter Gunn" into a single tune. While the Baby Elephant Walk is just as fun and enjoyable here as it always is, the Peter Dunn theme is so blatantly straight-forward and loud that the album ends on a rather disappointing note However, with this one exception, the Oranj Symphonette does a great job of creating fun, lively, and different versions of one of the greatest composers of our time. The Oranj Symphonette believes that Henry Mancini was a genius, and after listening to the album most will be inclined to agree.

'Gimpel the Fool' attempts to bring together various genres

(continued from page 13)

the home/ But you're so good at what you do/ Well, I'm good at that, too/ And now we are two./ Well, what's a girl to do?/ No one will blame you/ Leaving me to my own devices/ Hey, let's see your devices..."

There are also brave flights of poetic abandon. Here the bread dough tempts Gimpel to urinate into it and thus take revenge upon the cruel townspeople of Frampol: "Surge, pour, and churn/ As Eve, rib rent./ There is no God./ My low world./ Up the wild life./ You sing false words into the mix./ Ah, we warn./ Cat screaming,/ Now spray energy."

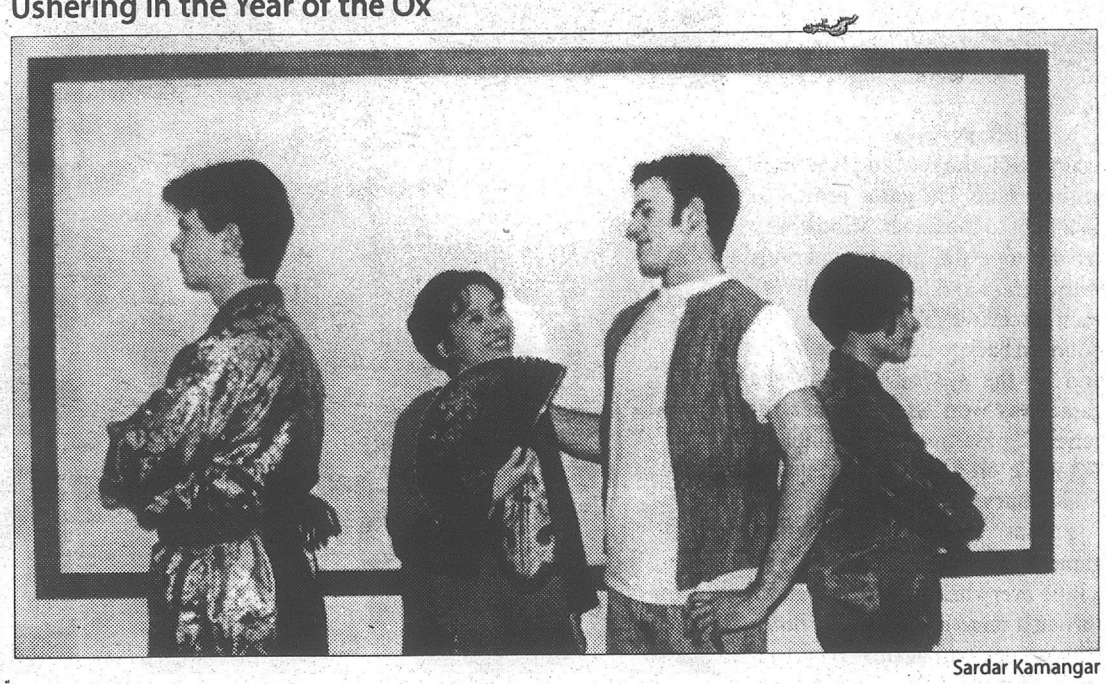
The truly disturbing thing about the libretto is that it makes nonsense out of good story. Singer's short story is a comical first person narration by Gimpel that changes progressively in tone to end on a dark, otherworldly note. An author working alone would have had a hard time eviscerating the original story as completely as the group of librettists was able to do in their pursuit of the lowest common denominator.

The mysticism of the original is transformed into a kitschy love story with burlesque thrown in for good measure. Gimpel's encounter with Satan, the climax of the short story, is inexplicably absent from the opera. The ending, although incomprehensible, appears to be a happy one, violating Singer's intent. The dancing rabbi barbershop quartet would have been offensive were there not so much evidence for a blatant disregard for meaning throughout the rest of the production.

While the opera's other shortcomings were relatively minor and necessarily result from a rushed schedule, the disjointed and thoughtless writing at the core of it all is inexcusable. Perhaps it is impossible for a committee to write well.

The pedagogical value of "Gimpel the Fool" was immense, as students worked hard to put all the elements of an ambitious production together in record time, and it presented a good opportunity for the music and theater departments to work together. The performance itself was a small price to pay for the experience gained by the participants. A more thoughtful approach in the future could yield a real winner, especially if the music and libretto were assigned to individuals with a real creative vision. Congratulations to all those who worked hard to build the groundwork this time around.

Ushering in the Year of the Ox



Sardar Kamangar

The East Asian Club *will celebrate the Year of the Ox with a performance and dinner. Join them at Ross Lounge on Saturday, February 15 at 8 p.m.*

Arts Smarts

Movies

Friday, February 14, 1997

7 p.m. and 9:30p.m.
"French Kiss"
Admission $1
Dana Auditorium

Saturday, February 15, 1997

4 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.
College Street Movie: "Killer of Sheep." Co-sponsored by the PALANA Center. In 16mm.
Dana Auditorium

Performances

Thursday, February 13, 1997

8 p.m.
Theater: "The Following Sea"; "Hope" ; "Charity." Written by Sean Libby, Terrance McNally, and Leonard Melfi, and representing the independent work of Sean Libby '97 for directing.
Admission $1
Wright Theater

8:00p.m.
Theater: "The Toothbrush; or Shipwrecked in the Amusement Park." Written by Jorge Díaz and translated from the Spanish by Coert Voorhees, the play is the independent work of Coert Voorhees '97 for directing and Henning Hegland '97 for light design. Admission $1.
Arts Center Studio Theater

8:00p.m.
Theater: "Storm from Paradise." Written by Claire MacDonald, this play is the independent work of Elena Zucker '97 for directing. Admission: $1.
Hepburn Zoo

Friday., February 14, 1997

8 p.m.
Theater: "The Following Sea"; "Hope"; "Charity." See Thursday listing for details.
Wright Theater

8 p.m.
Theater: "Storm from Paradise." See Thursday listing for details.
Hepburn Zoo

8 p.m.
Theater: "The Toothbrush; or Shipwrecked in the Amusement Park." See Thursday listing for details.

8 p.m.
Concert Series: Black Voices. Co-sponsored by the PALANA Center. Admission: $9 General, $7 Faculty/Staff/Seniors, $4 Students.
Arts Center Concert Hall

10 p.m.
First Friday Cultural Coffeehouse: Bristol Gap. Performers include Matt Bijur '97, banjo; Brian Burke '97, bass; Jamie Cowperthwaite '97, guitar; Andrew Mowry '98, mandolin; and Hillary Hoffmann '97, fiddle. Serving gourmet coffees. Co-sponsored by the Center for the Arts, Brainerd Commons, and Dining Services.
Arts Center Lower Lobby

Saturday, February 15, 1997

2 p.m.
Theater: "The Following Sea"; "Hope"; "Charity." See Thursday listing for details.
Wright Theater

6 p.m.
Chinese New Year Celebration. The celebration includes an authentic Chinese dinner and performances to celebrate the Year of the Ox. Also learn how to make Chinese dumplings from professors in the Chinese department. Tickets are $3.
Ross Lounge 1

8 p.m.
Theater: "The Following Sea"; "Hope"; "Charity." See Thurday listing for details.
Wright Theater

8 p.m.
Theater: "The Toothbrush; or Shipwrecked in the Amusement Park." See Thursday listing for details.

8 p.m.
Concert Series: Black Voices. See Friday listing for details.
Arts Center Concert Hall

Sunday, February 16, 1997

8 p.m.
Theater: "The Toothbrush; or Shipwrecked in the Amusement Park." See Thursday listing for details.

8 p.m.
Concert: Middlebury College Choir. Emory Fanning, conductor.
Arts Center Concert Hall

Monday, February 17, 1997

8 p.m.
Chamber Soloists: "Everybody's Boppin'.". Performers include Carol Christensen, Lia Kahler, Beth Thompson Kaiser, and Su Lian Tan from the music faculty, Shelby Johnson '99, area artist Leigh Guptil, and the Berkeley Square Jazz Group. Sponsored by the Music Department.

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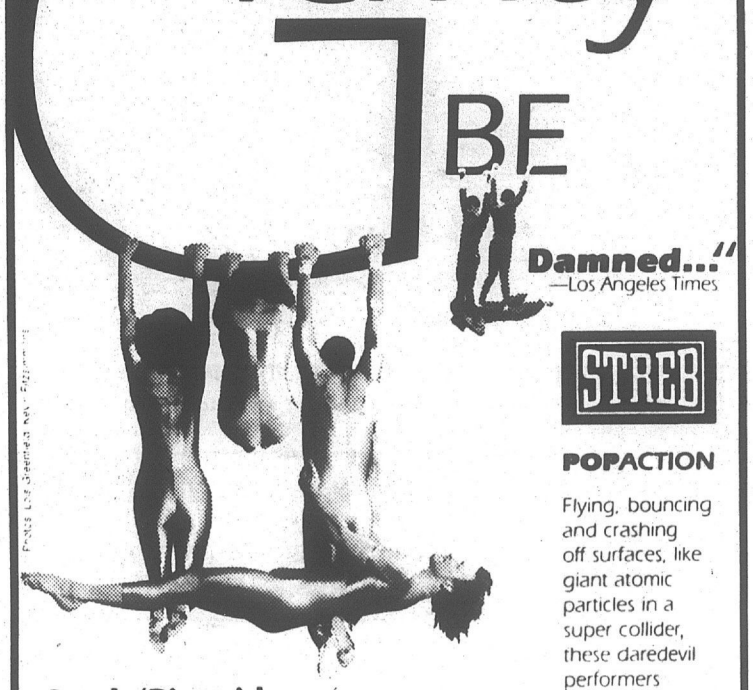

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Women's hockey beats RPI and RIT

By Megan Maloney
Staff Writer

Women's ice hockey opened up February Break with a home game and a road trip culminating in a match against the second place ranked team in their league.

The five game series began when the Panthers hosted Amherst College. The Lord Jeffs were demolished by the Panthers as Middlebury rolled to a 10-2 win.

Goals were scored by Katie Oates (2) '97, Sarah Hall (2) '00, Jennifer Hefner '97, Leanne MacDonald '00, Kelly Hase '00, Sylvia Ryan '00, and Janice O'Neil '99. Kristin Hackman '99 did an outstanding job minding the net, despite the two goals Amherst managed to score.

Laine Catlin '97 said, "Our 10-2 win against Amherst gave us an opportunity to improve our passing game and to work on our break outs and power plays for our more competitive games."

Only three days later, the Panthers travelled to Boston to face a Harvard team, markedly different than the team they played last year. With Harvard having lost one of their most prominent players to the National team this year, Middlebury saw an opportunity to upset the Division I team.

However, only 1:30 into the first period, Harvard netted their first goal. Middlebury managed to hold the Crimson off until the end of the first when another goal was scored. Demonstrating outstanding defense, the Panthers only allowed one goal to be scored on them in the second period. The third period showed Harvard netting an additional two goals, with the Panthers still shut out, making the final score 5-0.

The Panthers traveled to Providence the next day to face Brown, the team ranked number one currently in Division I. The Panthers went in with nothing to lose and everything to gain. Brown emerged victorious, winning 5-0, but Middlebury proved to themselves and the world that they could keep up with a top-ranked Division I team.

"It was very exciting to play Harvard and Brown over February Break since we were able to play talented teams," commented Sara Vintiadis '97. "By playing together, making clean passes, and skating hard, we proved to ourselves that we are capable of playing against Division I schools. Although we lost both games, we were definitely strong competitors for Harvard and Brown."

After only a day to rest, Middlebury headed to New York and faced RPI and RIT. Middlebury was pleased with the final score but not with the roughness and bad refereeing.

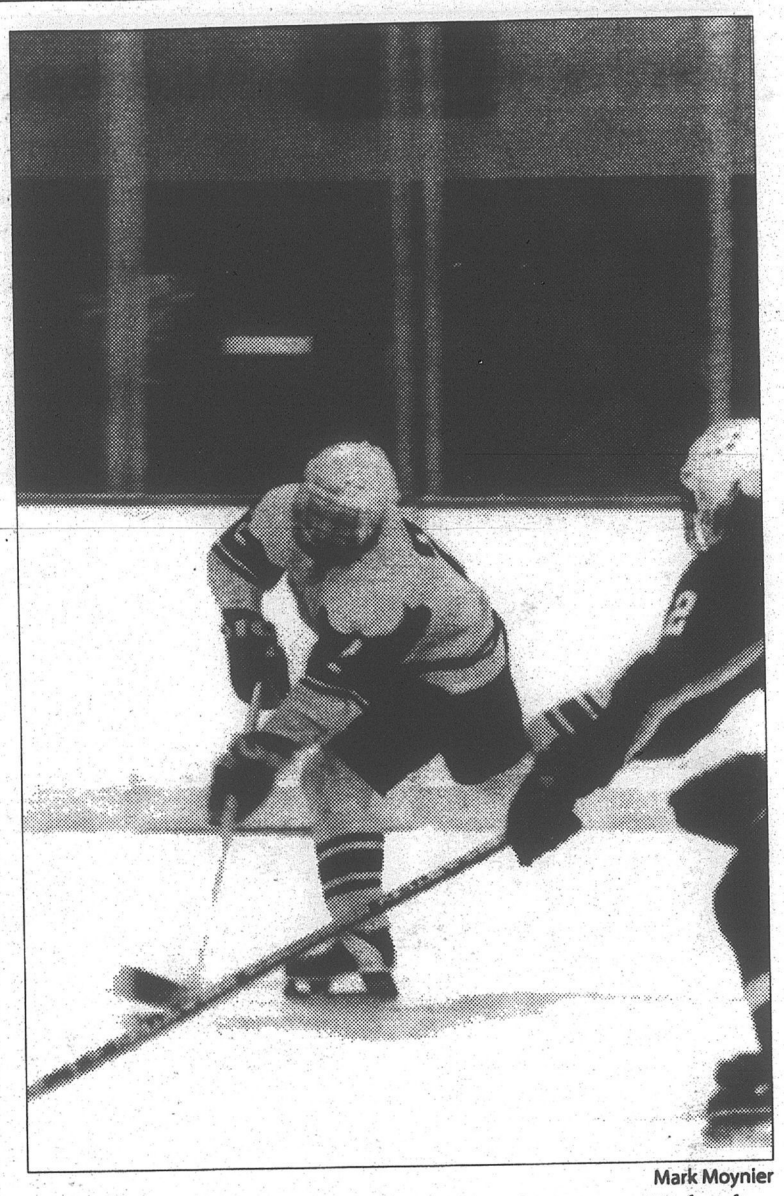
Only 11 seconds into the game, RPI scored. Only a minute later, however, Ryan tied up the game.

The second period proved to be the turning point when Whit Parks '97 scored on a pass from Becky Sama '98 making the score 2-1. Catherine Pullins '00 followed Parks' lead and shot one in from the point. Only minutes later, RPI came back and netted one on a power play.

A third Panther goal, netted by by Oates in the final minutes of the second period gave Middlebury a slight edge going into the third and final period which showed only one goal for each team, icing the score at 4-3.

Middlebury next faced off against RIT, the second place team in the league. The game proved to be a fight to the finish. Middlebury set the tone the first two periods with Hefner and Sara Vintiadis '97 each scoring one goal. RIT bounced back to tie the score by the end of the second period. The game was won when Hefner received a pass from Sara Vintiadis '97 while on a power play, giving Middlebury the 3-2 win.

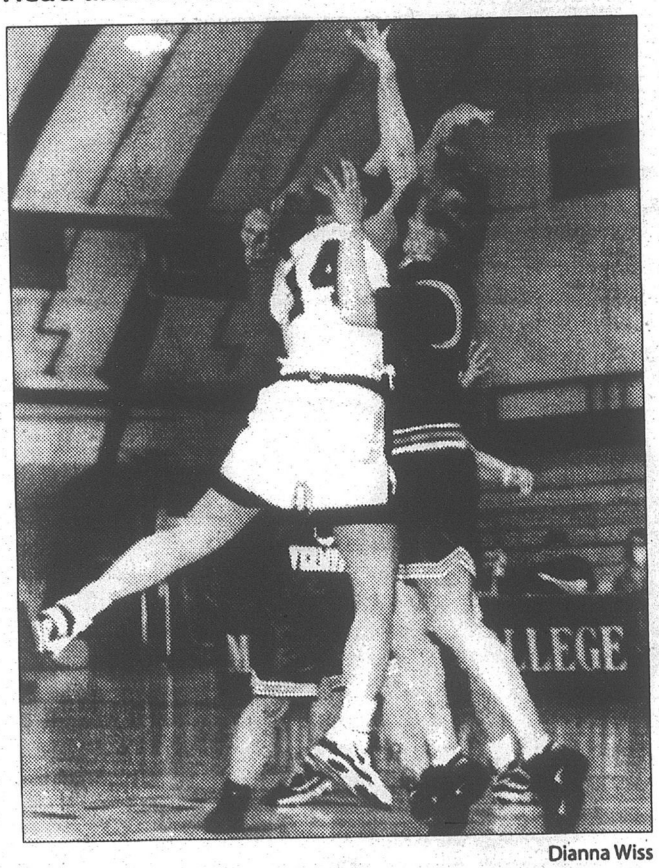
Pullins stated "Playing four games in five days was difficult and a little overwhelming. However, we turned it on to end February Break with a huge win against rival RIT. We played well, wanted to win, and kept skating to the end. That is what it takes."Middlebury plays this Saturday night at home against Wesleyan.



Mark Moynier

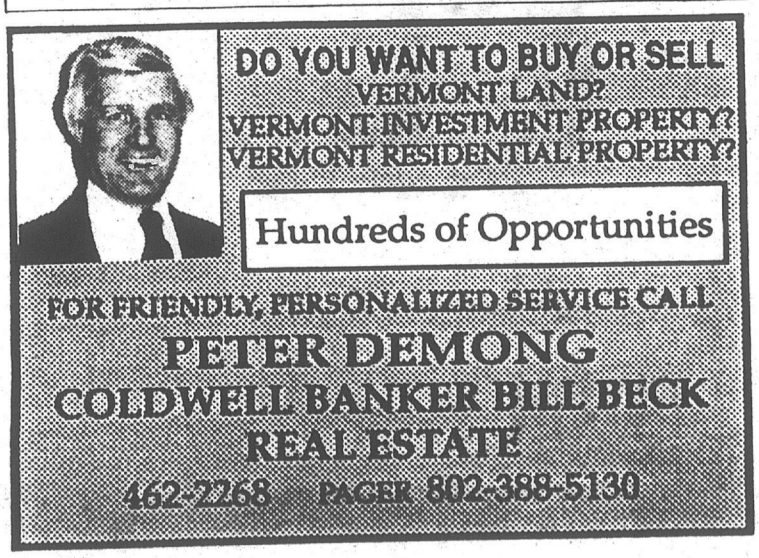
Sylvia Ryan '00 takes a shot in the 4-2 Dartmouth victory on Wednesday.

Head and shoulders above the field



Dianna Wiss

Strong in the post, *women's basketball continues to have players at the top of NESCAC rankings for rebounding and scoring.*



Panther track excels at Smith meet

Tiven breaks school record and qualifies for NCAA's in 55m hurdles

By Matt Burwell
and Erin Dempsy
Staff Writers

It is no surprise that the Middlebury track team showed a lot of pride and determination at the Smith Invitational meet held on February 8. Members of both the men's and women's teams posted some truly outstanding performances.

The most impressive display of athletic power was provided by first-year Anna Tiven. Miss Tiven, despite having suffered serious health considerations, qualified provisionally for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships in the 55 meter hurdles. Tiven also shattered her own school record in that event.

When reached for comment Tiven said, "I began the season with high hopes, never fearing that I would be sidelined by serious health considerations. These serious health considerations were both mentally and physically debilitating, but I managed to overcome adversity and take the arduous road to victory over my assembled foes at Smith."

Tiven also competed in the 55 meter dash, running a very competitive 8.02 seconds. Cindy Withington '00 followed close behind, with a time of 8.05. Of course, Withington excelled in the high jump, achieving a height of 4' 11". Her strong showing impressed the crowd and earned her fourth place.

Canada's own Lindsay Simpson '00 represented Middlebury with pride in the 400 meters, with a very solid time of 65 seconds. Simpson also faced some tough competition in the 1000 meters, in which she placed tenth. Janeen Hetzler '00 continued an impressive debut season with her performance in the 1500 meters. With a sixth place finish in the grueling 5000 meters, Michelle Anastasio '97 secured her reputation as one of New England's finest distance runners.

Anne Marie Oberg '98 turned in a commanding performance in the 20 pound weight throw, which garnered her second place. Oberg has already had a very solid season in indoor track, but Panther track fans are anxiously awaiting the NCAA championships, in which Oberg is widely expected to bring home the bacon.

Heptathlete extraordinaire Erin Dempsey '97 had an amazing showing in the shotput. Although it was only her second time competing in that event, she achieved a remarkable 24' 11" throw.

Formosan refugee Chi Hung Kuo had a lot to say about Erin's efforts in the shotput. "Well, we sure don't have athletes like Erin Dempsey in my backwards country. With the breathtaking skill she displayed today, Erin proved that she is among the superfly athletes. She is an excellent hurdler, but we all hope that she does even better in her new event, the heptathlon."

The men's team did not do quite as well as the women's team, but they managed to show the competition what they were made of. Paul "God" Horsham '00 of Rye, New York, came in second place in the 55 meter dash with a smoking time of 6.75 seconds. He was followed close behind by Mike "The Human Calculator" Cormier '99, who came in sixth place. This dynamic duo of sprinting power again teamed up in the 200 meter dash, in which the Human Calculator took second and Horsham took sixth place.

According to track connoisseur Mark Edgarton '99, the performances of both Horsham and the Calculator were phenomenal. "Just because I got a score of one on the AP History test doesn't mean that I have to take a shower everyday. And furthermore, no milk will ever be our milk."

In the hurdles, neither first-year James Ackley nor junior Matt Burwell qualified for the finals. Sean Bianchi '97 attended the meet along with Sean "Shamgod" Fisher '97, and Nick "Hey guys" Sanders '97 as a reconnaissance mission for Operation Diploma. Bianchi, a former Olympian decathlete, noted,"The mental toughness that Burwell displayed was reminiscent of a certain Keefe Tech football legend known as Dave Fielding."

Adam Consigli '99 got fourth place in the 35 pound weight throw. Three first-years, Krishna Moody, Josh Fisher and Gabriel McCrary, finished up very promising debut indoor seasons. Moody, who usually runs the 400 meters, moved up to the 800 and put in a very solid effort. McCrary ran in both the 200 and 400 meters, while Josh Fisher ran the 1500 meters. By the way, when Sean "Project: Graduation" Bianchi was seven years old, when these runners were toddlers.

Coach Martin Beatty was pleased with the performances of his athletes. "The Smith invitational was an excellent warm-up for the upcoming New England meet, because both meets attract similar levels of competition. And although all of the athletes put in tremendous efforts, I was especially proud of Anna Tiven's hurdles race, which qualified her for the NCAA championship."

Men's basketball continues to suffer

Panthers drop games to Bowdoin, Colby and Norwich; losing streak at eight

By Chris Botting
Staff Writer

After a string of losses both at home and on the road, the men's basketball team had almost a week to catch their breaths and practice for the game against Colby.

The Panthers entered Pepin gym on Friday night fully aware of their disadvantage down low, made so much worse with the season-ending injury to big-man and tri-captain Adam Boffey. Despite efforts of Mat Lasek '98, who had 12 boards, and the 16 points that tri-captain Greg Poulos '98 and Joe Faucher `00 each contributed, but the Panthers couldn't hold on, and dropped their sixth straight game 75-61.

The next day the Panthers faced Bowdoin, another big New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) rival. Just like the night before, the Panthers found themselves again in this year's all too familiar position of size a disadvantage.

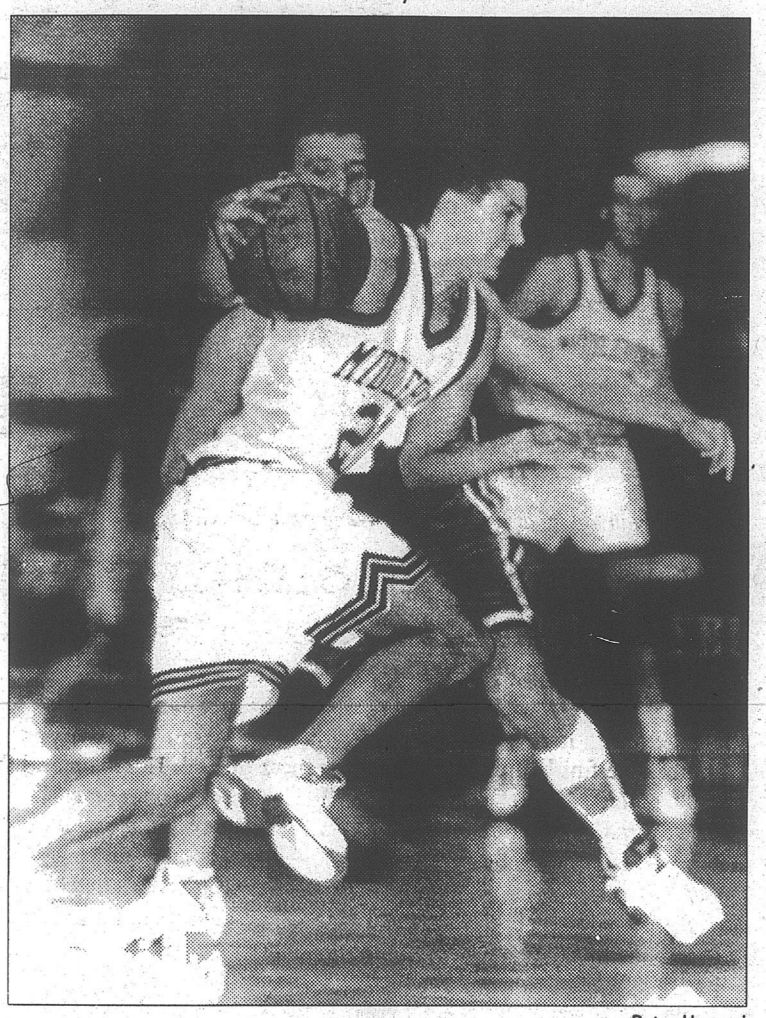
The team paced Bowdoin for much of the game, and were tied with ten minutes to go, but were soon "worn down on the backboards," said head-coach Russ Reilly. Mike Faucher '99 led scorers with 14 points in the effort, but Bowdoin managed to capitalize on a small and tired Middlebury team, and pulled away with the victory at 85-58.

Having fallen to seven straight losses, the Panthers were ready for winter recess. Coach Reilly allowed the team four days rest before returning to practice for the upcoming Norwich game. "It helped," said Reilly, remarking on the general fatigue of the team after a tough month.

The Panthers traveled up to the northern country to face Norwich Academy on the 11th. Well rested and practiced, Middlebury put on a better all-around performance as Poulos poured in 15 points, and Joe Faucher had 14. Rookie David Frye '98 performed impressively with eight points, seven rebounds and seven steals. "Dave has steadily improved," said Reilly, and all hope that he can improve even more to net a triple-double by the end of the season.

Middlebury's offense was almost non-existent in the first-half, as the Panthers shot only 17 percent from the floor. The second half saw a marked improvement, and the Panthers were playing a brilliant game of catch up, until rough playing late in the game led to a scuffle and a technical foul for the Panthers. This broke the momentum of their drive, and the game slipped away, ending with another defeat, 78-67.

"[We're] playing with a lot of intensity right now," said Reilly, "but we [have to] break the skid [and stop] making all these little mistakes." This season has been rocky for the men's basketball team. Battles with injuries and close games have frustrated coaches and players alike. The Panthers next face a rematch with UMaine Farmington on February 14, and look to get back on the winning track.



Peter Huoppi

Greg Poulos '98 drives to the basket , adding up 16 points against Colby.

Skiing nets third at UVM/Dartmouth

(continued from page 20)

Races this past weekend, Feb. 7 - 8, were hosted by Dartmouth College. Middlebury placed third overall behind UVM and Dartmouth. After two days of events, the women's alpine team was second, men's alpine third, women's nordic fifth, and the men's nordic team placed second.

Friday's giant slalom results were led by Laundon who finished sixth, 1.95 seconds off of Wendy Scipione of UVM who won the race. Next for the team was Hosmer in 17th followed immediately by Kirstin Gerety '99. For the men, Anderson posted a solid sixth place finish, 2.25 seconds behind Derek McClellan of UVM. Anderson was backed by good skiing with Barron in 10th and Silver in 13th, some of their best GS placings yet this season.

In the women's 15 km classical, Jessie Donavan '97 placed 11th. DuMond finished in twelfth and Boyle was eighteenth. The men raced a 15 km classic in which Jay Leach '97 skied an impressive race to finish in second place. Giese placed next in third and Rawstron finished sixth. These top spots clenched the win in this event for the men. Thus, they continue with placings at the top of the EISA standings this season.

Comfortable temperatures, blue skies, and bright sunshine were on hand for Saturday's slalom at the Dartmouth Skiway, which saw Laundon to her second collegiate victory of the season. She was third after the first run. Laundon skied the fastest second run to take the win by -0.04. Hosmer's second run met with a mishap which placed her in seventh overall. Laundon was backed with solid skiing by Bither who finished fourth and by Mia DeMattei '97 who finished fifth. Barron skied a fine race to finish tenth in the men's slalom, +2.46 to the day's best by UVM's Randy Flood. Supporting scorers were Andrew Brodie '98, with a 21st, and Anderson, with a 26th.

An impressed assistant alpine coach Kate Webber '94 noted that the skiers are all placing into far better rankings than they currently have, more so than any other team. They are skiing the best personal results of their careers in these races.

"The team is picking up speed to be, hopefully, right on for the Middlebury Carnival. We're working toward qualifying a full team for the NCAA's," said Webber.

Saturday's fine weather produced fast gliding conditions for a spectacular showdown of team strength in the skating relays. In the women's three-person by 5 km relay, Boyle, DuMond, and Donavan finished fifth. The men's was a three-person by 10 km battle over the challenging, hilly terrain of the Hanover, NH course. Ryan Brooks '97 led the pack out of the mass start and was soon joined in the lead by Leach, who skied for Middlebury's non-scoring team.

The second leg skiers for the Middlebury teams went side-by-side and increased their lead on the rest of the competition. Middlebury went into the third and final leg with a 59.2 second advantage on the nearest team, Bates College. This was by no means a comfortable margin, however; Bakken would ski the last leg for UVM.

With exceptionally fast gliding, Bakken rose to the challenge to catch the Middlebury teams just before entering the final few kilometers of the course, known as "the war zone." When Giese emerged from the woods just before the finish, the leader was no longer in sight; Brooks, Rawstron, and Giese finished second, up 16.2 seconds to UVM's winning comeback.

Captain's Corner

Men's Track

By Greg Carolan and Kris Clarke

The 1997 Men's Track and Field team is on a mission. Last year's excellent finish in both the New England Small College Athletic Conference (NESCAC) and New England championships was a wake up call for the rest of Division III.

This year, supported by another impressive first-year class, the Panthers are poised to bust down the door and not even the Purple Cows of Williams can stop them.

Middlebury has long been a sprinting super power in New England and this year is no different. Anchoring the men's sprinting corps is defending 100m NESCAC Champ, and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) qualifier Mike "Shoe Stealer" Cormier '99.

Greg Carolan '97

Dave Savarese '98 returns from a term abroad in excellent shape to join senior co-captain and team dance instructor Kris Clarke '97, Mark "Icecapades" Spence '98, and Cormier on the most dominating, and I must say the most good looking 4x100m relay team New England has seen since the Panthers of 1993.

The sprinters should receive serious help from 400m stud and Arkansas native Dustin Gillespie '99 and super-rookies Paul Horsham '00, "Shoeless" Gabe McCrary '00, Velizar "Bulgarian Bullet 2" Tarashev '00 and Krishna Moody '00, while the hurdles will be commanded by Clarke, Matt Burwell '98 and rookie hill-billy James Ackley '00.

While sprinting is definitly an important aspect of the sport, the real competition takes place in the distance events. Leading this group of fearless athletes will undoubtedly be the 800m runners. This group of seasoned veterans, composed of senior co-captain Greg Carolan '97, Kid's Night Out disciplinarian Matt Markowski '97, "Ladies Man" Mark Tromblay '98, "Texas" Boomer Galik '99 and the Man In Black, Brendan O'Donohoe '99, are poised to reach their previously untapped potential.

The 1500m will be commanded by senior Graham "Cliffhanger" Balch '97, Wild Bill Coddington '99 and a host of first-years including Mark Drappi '00. First year runner Josh Fisher '00 will tear it up in the strangest race on the track, the 3000m steeplechase and the 5000m field will witness another dominating year from sophomore phenom Erik Abbott '99. When asked about his hopes for the season, Abbott responded, "Dude, I don't know bro."

The 25 insane laps of the 10,000m (that's right 25 laps!) will be tackled by equally insane runners, senior Dave Leibowitz '97 and Rusty "Death" Dolleman '98. Dolleman is familiar to most as the lead singer/yeller of the campus band Dorm Damage. Hopefully Dolleman will not fall victim to any "wrestling" injuries and have the season of his life.

The throwing events will be propelled by the strength of Brad Somma '98, the size of Steve Howard '98, and the brains of Adam Dreiblatt '99. Super-sophomores and just really nice guys Adam Consigli and Peter Suen should also impress. Airing it out in the pole vault will be a group of sophomores, Andy Dixon nordic star Eli Enman, Silas "Heisman" Marshall, and Chris "High Jump" Morosky. Juniors Dave Sardilli and Pat Knightly will hop-skip and jump their way to success in the triplejump.

The season begins March 29 at the University of California-San Diego and, with the NESCAC Championships right here in our own back yard April 26-27. The Panthers are ready to assume their rightful place above the rest of the conference as well as the entire region, so come support the team this Spring as they race and throw their way to victory over all opponents.

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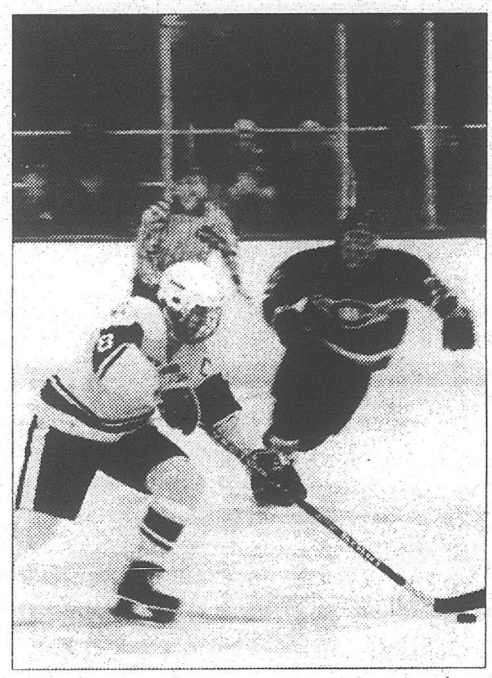
Men's Winter Sports	
Basketball vs. Norwich	67-78
Hockey vs. Colby	4-3
Hockey vs. Bowdoin	2-1

The Campus Sports

Women's Winter Sports	
Basketball vs. Norwhich	67-41
Hockey vs. Dartmouth	2-4
Hockey vs. RIT	3-2



Courtesy photo

Men's hockey continues its domination with crisp passing and a strong offensive attack.

Men's hockey brings winning streak to nine

By Jennifer DeLeonardo
Staff Writer

The men's ice hockey team increased their unbeaten streak to nine games this past weekend by defeating Colby and Bowdoin. These wins put Middlebury into first place in the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) standings. Middlebury has also been ranked third in the latest Division III East poll.

Friday night saw the Panthers at Bowdoin. The game was a low-scoring one, with only one goal being scored per period. Middlebury jumped out to an early lead at the 2:20 mark in the first period, when Emil Jattne '98 put in a rebound off a shot by defenseman Ben Barnett '00. Bowdoin tied the game at the 14:46 mark into the second period with a goal by Jed Sheehan.

Bowdoin was not able to answer Middlebury's game winning goal from Mike Anastasio '97 at 4:29 into the third period. Anastasio deflected Ryan Goldman's '98 shot from the point into the net for the win. Goalkeeper Chris Farion '98 stopped thirty of Bowdoin's attempts to record his thirtieth career win in goal and cement the 2-1 MIddlebury win.

The Panthers moved on to rival Colby for Saturday's action. Colby came out strong with the first goal at 11:49. However, Colby could not stop the combination of Mark Spence '98 and John Giannacopoulos '00, who together scored all of Middlebury's goals.

The two first struck, just a minute after Colby scored, on a power play goal from forward Giannacopoulos assisted by Spence. They met again in the second period this time with Spence netting the goal on an assist from Giannacopoulos. Colby came out strong early in the third period, scoring only 25 seconds into the period and then again at the 5:55 mark. With Colby leading 3-2, Middlebury needed two goals for the win.

After a Colby timeout, Middlebury came out focused. At 12:39, Spence struck again on an assist from seniors Sebastian Bilodeau and Mike Anastasio to tie the game. His goal was followed forty seconds later by another Giannacopoulos goal, scored on a rebound off a Curt Goldman '00 shot. Colby was unable to answer and Middlebury won with a final score of 4-3. Junior Francois Bourbeau made 25 saves in the net to improve his career record to 34-1-2.

The Panthers will return to action February 14 and 15 for the final two home games of the season.

Women's basketball team devours opponents

Anne McDonough
Staff Writer

"We just killed them on the boards," said women's basketball coach Jen Fulcher. The Panthers are not cannibals but do enjoy eating opponents alive which they demonstrated against Norwich and Castleton.

This past weekend the awesome offensive rebounds (25 in all) and dazzling shooting, particularly impressive in the second half, delivered a crushing blow to the Castleton team. Encouraged by the playing on their home court, the Panthers outscored their opponents in both periods, doubling Castleton's 18 points in the second half, and had 56 rebounds to Castleton's 32.

"We did an impresive job of shutting them down. They are a good team, atheletic and fast, and they tested us, but we shot well and pulled it all together." — Coach Fulcher

Heather Langlois '00 lead all scorers, while Kristin Manix '97 lead the team with 12 rebounds. Co-captain Corie Pierce '97, sidelined for the past few games with an injury, made an impressive comeback and inspired her teammates to push themselves even father. The Panthers ended the game with a 29 point advantage, 80-51.

"We did an impressive job of shutting them down," said Coach Fulcher. "They are a good team, athletic and fast, and they tested us, but we shot well and pulled it all together."

Tuesday's game was also a success. Facing Norwich, arguably Middlebury's strongest intrastate rival, was a challenge that the Panther's met with, once again, awesome defense.

"They play a run and gun game," said Coach Fulcher, "and what we have to do is shut it down and make them play our style." Pierce made a post-injury appearance, as did leading scorer Chrissie Peterson '99, who has been out with a torn ACL.

The Panthers repeated their earlier victory over Norwich, this time with Lauren Brown '98 leading with 14 points and Peterson a close second with 12. Brown made seven defensive rebounds which helped to keep Norwich's score low.

"It was intense," said Coach Fulcher. "Before the match, Norwich's coach told me how much her players wanted to beat us. They could taste it. Well, we killed them on the board."

The Panthers face Farmington and Bates, two of the toughest opponents on their schedule, this coming week. "We need to keep our composure and attack them with our confidence," said Coach Fulcher.

With two of the NESCAC's leading scorers in Peterson and Brown, a unified force, and a stunning defense, the Panthers are right to be confident.

Scot Applegate

Cresting the hill with the lead in the men's 3x10 Km relay in the Dartmouth Winter Carnival is Middlebury's anchor, Chad Griese '98.

Skiing takes third at UVM and Dartmouth

By Scot Applegate
Staff Writer

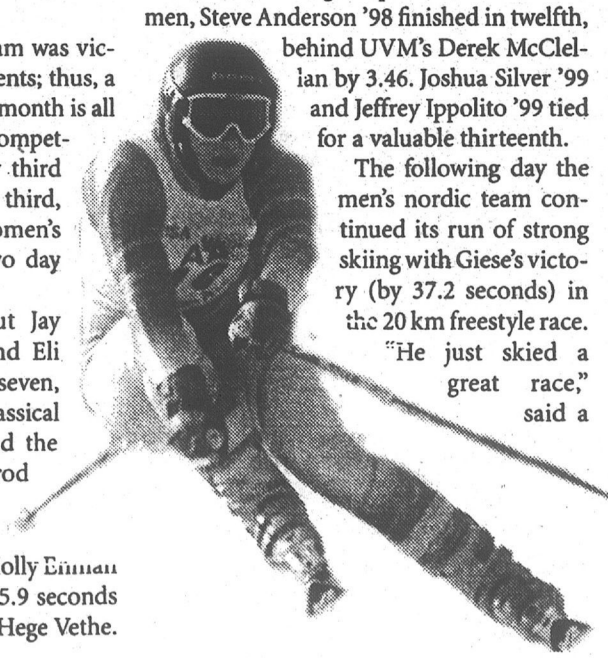
The University of Vermont dominated over most of the results in its own winter carnival ski races that took place on January 31 and February 1. The races were held as a sort of rehearsal for the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) championships that will be held at the same sites in March.

The Panther men's nordic team was victorious after the two days of events; thus, a repeat of this performance next month is all that is needed. Success with its competitive efforts placed Middlebury third overall. The women's nordic was third, men's alpine fourth, and women's alpine placed second in the two day event totals.

The men's nordic team put Jay Leach '97, Chad Giese '98, and Eli Enman '99 in spots five, six, and seven, respectively, to win the 10 km classical event. Leach was 2:05.2 behind the first place finish of UVM's Thorrod Bakken.

In the women's 5 km classical, scoring efforts were led by Molly Enman '97 who finished seventh and 45.9 seconds behind the top time of UVM's Hege Vethe. Emily Boyle '97 finished fifteenth and Maya Davis '00 finished sixteenth to round out the point contributions.

Meanwhile, up the valley on Mt. Mansfield, the giant slalom contests were being settled. Brooke Laundon '00 finished seventh, 2.98 seconds behind UVM's Susan Larson. Trina Hosmer '00 and Andrea Bither '97 tied for an eighth place finish. For the men, Steve Anderson '98 finished in twelfth, behind UVM's Derek McClellan by 3.46. Joshua Silver '99 and Jeffrey Ippolito '99 tied for a valuable thirteenth.



The following day the men's nordic team continued its run of strong skiing with Giese's victory (by 37.2 seconds) in the 20 km freestyle race. "He just skied a great race," said a pleased Terry Aldrich, the head nordic ski coach, "That's the first time [Bakken] has been beaten in an intercollegiate race."

Will Rawstron '00 scored next for the team in fourth; Andrew Johnson brought in the next set of points in sixth, sealing another day's win for the men. Laura DuMond '00 finished fourth in the women's 15 km freestyle, 1:51.7 back from the fastest time of UVM's Sarah Walker. DuMond's spectacular result was supported with an eighth place finish by Davis and Boyle's thirteenth.

The women's team won the slalom race, led with a second place finish by Laundon. Laundon won the first run by 0.33 seconds, but she was edged out for the victory with the second run by UVM's Megan Brown, whose overall advantage was 0.27 seconds. Bither and Hosmer skied two solid runs to place fourth and fifth respectively.

Men's slalom results were led by Silver's fourteenth place finish, 3.75 seconds off of the fastest time posted by Brandon Dyksterhouse of UVM. Team points were scored by Ippolito who skied cleanly to finish in nineteenth and by Adam Barron '00 who placed 20th. Barron made up for costly errors in the first run with fast skiing on the second course.

(see Skiing, page 19)